Nathaniel Nopart.

THE MOUNTEBANKS, OR OPPOSITION SHOW BOX.

G Cruikshank sculpt

THE SCOURGE.

FEBRUARY 1, 1812.

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

☞ So large a portion of this number has been devoted to subjects of general and immediate interest, as to render unavoidable the postponement of several amusing jeux de esprit; among which Poll Raffle's Lottery, or the Wellesley exhibition, shall obtain the first place.

Lind-amira is received.

The *ci-devant* Posture Mistress, and Sicilian Courtezan, with several interesting anecdotes of a naval hero, are in preparation.

The Whips, No. II., in our next.

We are obliged to the gentlemen at the Cocoa Tree; but are sure that on reflection they will acknowledge the propriety of abstaining from remark on the intrigues of the Life-guards till the decision of the expected court-martial shall be made known.

The assertion respecting Lieut. Kelly is incorrect.

In the explanation of the article on the funds of Drury-lane, it should be observed that under the provisions of the act only ten per cent. on the amount of the subscriptions can be drawn, till all the claimants be satisfied.

A Constant Reader is referred to the successor of Braham at Covent Garden.

The Mentorian Puffs; P. L.; A Peeper at Carlton House; a Voyage from Antrim; and the History of a most destructive Tempest, are under consideration.

The Review of Milner on Architecture; Paddy Ponsonby's speech; an Essay on Constitutional Retrospection; and Memoirs of a Ministerial Mansion, are inadmissible.

THE

SCOURGE.

FEBRUARY 1, 1812.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE, AND MR. SHERIDAN.

SIR,

THE liberty of the press is sometimes more deeply injured, by the dishonorable compact of its retainers, than by all the restraints and oppressions to which it may be subjected by the hand of an impolitic and arbitrary government. While the minds of the public journalists remain unfettered, or while interest operates in counteracting the tyranny of power, some freedom of discussion on every topic unconnected with politics will remain; and occasional efforts to reestablish the independence of the press, will testify the presence of a spirit, which whenever it surmounts the immediate obstacles by which it is obstructed, diffuses its light with tenfold lustre, and burns with a splendor proportionate to the efforts employed for its extinction. But when the persons connected with the press submit themselves in voluntary subservience to a man, whose genius only serves to embellish meanness, palliate extravagance, and ennoble selfishness; when they become the willing instrument of his most profligate schemes, and sacrifice the interest of the public to his private convenience, there is no hope of remedy, but in the death of the individual. The influence of such a man is gradually and imperceptibly obtained: its progress excites no jealousy; its operation is not resisted, because it binds the will in voluntary chains: injustice to the cause of truth and liberty, assumes the form of homage to exalted genius; and he who would frown defiance on a Gibbs, or resist with indig-

nation the proposals of a Yorke, permits no compunctious visitings of conscience to dissuade him from blandishing the vices, and concurring in the wildest and most injurious speculations of a Sheridan.

It is a fact more lamentable than singular, that with the exception of the Examiner and the Morning Post, scarcely a single journal at present exists, which is not in some degree devoted to the personal service of the modern Alcibiades. It is a sufficient ground for the rejection of an advertisement or a paragraph at many of the newspaper offices, that it may be unpleasant to the feelings, or injurious to the interests of Mr. Sheridan. If any article in opposition to Drury-lane was sent for admission, the answer usually received was "it will displease the Sheridans;" if the insertion of a statement, substantiated by the necessary documents, respecting the claims of the old renters was requested as an act of public justice, it was replied that nothing could be consistent with public justice that injured the Sheridans: the Sheridans were boldly avowed to be of more importance than the majority of our nobles; and their interests openly preferred to those of the great body of the people. Whether any publication yet remains beside the journals above referred to, in which truth and justice are paramount to the influence of the Sheridans, the fate of this letter will determine. You have boasted of independence, it remains to be seen whether that imposing name have any other meaning in the vocabulary of a modern writer, than hostility to the servants of the crown.

To the *public* virtues of Mr. Whitbread no man has had more frequent opportunities of contributing his testimony, than the writer who now addresses you. With the habits and the temper of a Bonaparte in his domestic connections, he no sooner steps forth to the execution of his senatorial duty than he throws aside his monkish garb, and assumes the robe and the presence of a patriot. On every great occasion his conduct has been that of a man deeply anxious for the salvation of his coun-

try, and sacrificing every private and petty interest to the faithful performance of his duties as a servant and representative of the people. But even Mr. Whitbread has become the tool of Sheridan: he contentedly sacrifices the honest fame that he had obtained by a long series of important services, and becomes the willing instrument of designs, from which if he perceives their tendency, he ought to withdraw his support: and in which it is to be hoped that nothing but a total unacquaintance with dramatic speculations could have permitted him to engage.

That Mr. Whitbread should devote his personal influence to the service of his friend, does credit to the virtues of his heart: the extent, the success of his exertions bear honorable testimony to the warmth of his attachment, and to the estimation in which he is held by the most respectable classes of society. No man could have benefited the Drury Lane partnership in an equal degree: and few individuals would have employed their power of being useful to an equal extent. But having done what he could, by fair and candid representations of the state of the concern, he should have left the less honorable part of the business to men who had no character to lose, and whose statements would only have weighed with the public in proportion to their correctness. There was no reason why he should come forward and declare that only two claimants remained whose demands were uncompromised; that the whole of the claims might be commuted for £150,000, and that there was even no doubt of the final completion of the building: he must have known that these statements were erroneous, or he must have paid but a slight attention to the subject. Permit me, Mr. Editor, to ask by what vouchers he has ascertained the number of the outstanding claimants, or the value of their claims; from whence the cash for the erection of the theatre is to proceed, and on what grounds he rests his hope that the building will be completed?

In the first place I can assure you that notwithstanding the formidable list of names appended to the report, not one hundred thousand pounds have yet been even nominally subscribed. Many of the shares purchased by the "noblemen and gentlemen," who extend the catalogue are only single shares of one hundred pounds. They have begun the erection of the building with no other capital than the amount of the insurance, and the value of the ruins, with only 100,000l. more in expectancy; with the certainty, that even with that sum in possession, only half the theatre can be completed, and without the ability to satisfy a single claimant, supposing all the claimants to have consented to a compromise. But,

2. There is every reason to believe, that of claims actually outstanding, for which Mr. Whitbread has obtained no vouchers, and of which no compromise will be made, no less than 120,000l. remain to be liquidated. Supposing it *possible* that these should be commuted for 30,000l. in what way is Mr. Whitbread enabled to provide for so enormous an addition to the estimate? But if it be in the power of any claimants to keep in the back ground, and come forward with the full amount of their claims, whenever they suppose the funds of the theatre to be in a prosperous condition, what security have the new subscribers for the regular administration of their property? Is it not evident, that from the source pointed out, obstructions, not only to the building of the house, but to the productiveness of the property, and to the division of the revenue, will continually occur; that litigation will exhaust the receipts, and continual discord distract the managers of the concern?

3. Mr. Whitbread has exhausted all his powers of argument and persuasion; every mode of literary insinuation has been employed: wit has combined with wit to sing the praises of Sheridan, and the glories of Drury-lane; pathos has been called in to the aid of logic: at one time the servants of Whitbread appeal to the avarice of the public, and at another to its patriotism: we

are reminded of the father's genius, the son's indisposition, and the daughter's possible viduity: the senate is invaded by dramatic amateurs; the parliamentary reporters intersperse their *hears!* and their notes of admiration at the end of every speech of the managers of old Drury; the belles at the west end of the town, are adorned with Drury medals, exhibiting a phœnix rising from its ashes; yet with the combination of all these efforts, and of all the industry that these circumstances exhibit, allowing Mr. Whitbread's most favorable statement to be correct, and admitting Mr. Sheridan to be the very paragon of all that is disinterested, economical, and virtuous, what are the prospects held out to the subscribers? 100,000l. have been, according to the *exparte* statement, actually subscribed: the cost of the building will be 150,000l., and the whole expence must amount to 300,000l. Having done all, therefore, that could be done, they are compelled to acknowledge a deficit of more than 200,000l. Having failed in obtaining that sum by their late extraordinary efforts, they have nothing to hope from futurity. Supposing, therefore, that the building is completed, it must open with an actual debt of 200,000l., without any variety of dresses or scenery, with incumbrances for the benefit of the Sheridans, and with one or two obstinate claimants whose ability to injure bears no proportion to the amount of their demands.

But the fact is, that the progress of the building must be speedily stopped; the persons interested will then come forward with doleful lamentations that so fine a structure should be left to "the peltings of the pitiless storm," like the modesty of Sheridan to the assaults of a Covent-garden mob. If the artifice excites compassion, a few subscriptions will be obtained, and another foot added to the walls. But if the public remain inexorable, Mr. Sheridan will come forward, and after many preliminary professions of generosity, modesty, and honor, will remind the public, that he freely and fairly surrendered his claims for a compensation inadequate to their worth, rather than impede the progress

of the building, or disturb the cordiality of the subscribers; that trusting to the fulfilment of their engagements, he had exerted himself for the benefit of the original renters and proprietors; that to his interest alone, it has been owing that the new structure reared its head above the surrounding palings; and that while the other persons interested in the concern stood looking on, he was fighting their battles in the senate, and exciting the friendly exertions of Mr. Whitbread; that to deny him, therefore, some renumeration for disappointed hopes, and unrepaid exertions, would partake at once of injustice and ingratitude; that he throws himself on the generosity of those whom he has the honor to address, and leaves it to them to consider the extent and the urgency of his claims. A friend will now come forward, and propose, in due form, that instead of contingent remuneration from the receipts of the intended theatre, an absolute investment on the existing property of stones and wood be granted to him and his heirs for ever. The motion will excite no astonishment, for it is favorable to Mr. Sheridan; a man who must be provided for whoever is sacrificed to his interest, and who has so long exercised the privilege of doing as he pleases, that to deny him its continuance in old age, would be the climax of all that is indecorous and illiberal.

Having thus shewn that Drury-lane cannot be rebuilt at present, and that every future effort to rebuild it must necessarily be more unpropitious than the present, the conclusion necessarily arises, that either its patent should be sold to the subscribers to a third theatre, or, which is better, that a third patent should be granted for the performance of the English legitimate drama. So long as there was any prospect of the re-establishment of Drury-lane, the proprietors of a third theatre evidently abstained from opposing its interests, or employing any argument in their own favor that might either injure their property or provoke their hostility. They endeavoured to prove that a third theatre was necessary, even suppos-

ing Drury-lane to be risen from its ashes. They were soon convinced, however, that the only serious opposition with which they had to contend, originated with the friends of Mr. Sheridan, who exerted themselves in the House of Commons with so much effect, as to prevent all hope of success to the petitioners, so long as the same prejudices should continue. But now that all has been done for New Drury that can be done; when the exertions of the committee of the third theatre can in no way obstruct the progress of Mr. Whitbread and his friends; and that it is proved beyond the possibility of doubt that the patent in the hands of its present proprietors can never be employed to an efficient purpose; it is surely reasonable to expect that even those who deny the necessity of a third theatre, will admit the want of a second, and contribute to the erection of a substitute for Drury-lane. All patents are granted for the benefit of the public: it could not be in the contemplation of the crown, when it granted the Drury-lane patent that the public should be deprived of stage exhibitions at the pleasure of the persons in whose favor it was granted; that it should exclude other adventurers in theatrical property, while it itself laid dormant; and injure the public, without enriching its proprietors.

It is distressing to witness the acts to which a genius like that of Sheridan has been doomed to stoop, in the pursuit of trivial gains and petty advantages; and it must be afflicting to his friends, that the viduity of his daughter-in-law should be made the subject of appeal to the merciful consideration of the privy-council, in the presence of Mr. Sheridan himself. That if he were rendered independent, he would be a better man, let us charitably hope; that he would not then be an obstruction to any plan of advantage to the public is highly probable; and that he would no longer be an object of insulting but mistaken pity, is not less certain, than that he who now addresses you can forgive his errors in consideration of his poverty.

A Theatrical Amateur.

THE MAGISTRATES.

The deficiency of our present system of police, has at length been acknowledged by the ministers themselves, and may, therefore, be descanted upon without any fear of legal visitation. The administration of the system, however, is more deserving of reprehension than the system itself, and all attempts either by the auxiliary introduction of military bodies, by augmenting the number of subordinate officers, or restoring the efficiency of the midnight watch, must terminate in disappointment, unless the majority of the present magistrates be superseded by men of unembarrassed minds and of bodily activity: who can make it their business to fulfil the duties of their situation; whose attention is not necessarily diverted from the subject before them, by the allurements of books, or good eating, or dramatic exhibitions; who understand the world as it is, much better than they remember what it was, or can imagine what it ought to be. As the members of a convivial and literary club, where the luxuries of a plentiful repast and copious libations should be the precursors of critical or philosophical disquisition; where those who could not shine might be permitted to repose, and the sluggish or the apoplectic should remain as the tools of the dabblers in metre and the collectors of dramatic anecdotes, it would be difficult to point out a set of more appropriate persons than the bench of magistrates. But as forming the directors of our police, as men in whom it is natural to require some portion of acquaintance with the world, and no inconsiderable share of personal and undivided activity, it would be vain to seek after any apology for their selection. That the penult in crevere is short in Horace and long in Juvenal, that *Lelontai* is a plural noun; that there remains a balance in the hands of the Drury-lane treasurer of £447 16*s*. 8½*d*. and that an easterly wind hastens the crisis of a haunch of venison, are discoveries of some importance in themselves, and would be received with

all appropriate reverence, were not the lives or fortunes of the people sacrificed to their investigation. A poet whose days have been passed in the cultivation of literary excellence, and who is never so happy as when measuring couplets in his study, is a respectable and interesting personage; a bustling, meddling, intriguing appendage to the theatres, may be useful and convenient in his peculiar province; and an old man worn down with infirmity, of a feeble person and decayed faculties, deserves at once our pity and indulgence; but why should the impotence of age be exposed on the bench to the derision of the vulgar, and the exultation of the criminal? what reason can be given for drawing the poet from his study, or the manager and arbitrator from the only pursuits to which he devotes his steady, unremitting and enthusiastic exertions? A canting parasite of the ministers, who rings his monthly change on jacobinism and infidelity, may be deserving of encouragement; but why is he to be dragged from his Review to shew the world how little attention he can spare to the duties of his new situation, and how very possible it is that a man may write with fluency on "social order" without possessing any resources by which he may contribute to its practical support?

But it will be replied by the friends of these magistrates, that they are a set of meritorious men, who have contributed by their writings to the glory and the advantage of their country, or rendered themselves by an active and beneficial interference in the management of public institutions, the objects of a just and liberal patronage. To expect that such men should relinquish their favorite pursuits, and forget the confirmed habits of their lives, is not less cruel than absurd: that they should be rewarded for their virtues or their services, no one possessed of the feelings and principles of a gentleman will dispute; and that they should be the mere servants of the public, drudges without relief, and dependants without consolation, is revolting to every feeling of humanity.

That the merits of the gentlemen alluded to are of a description so uncommon or so various as to demand of the nation a liberal reward, it is not our present business to deny; but if they have really deserved well of their country, they have a right to ask not only for a remuneration, but for a remuneration imposing no laborious duties, and depreciated by no unpleasant obligations. Let the poet be rewarded as a poet, and let such a pension be granted to the victim of infirmity as may alleviate his sufferings, and dissipate the fears of superannuated indigence; but do not commit the safety of the public for the value of a pension: let Mr. Nares receive a handsome allowance for his former services, and let him be superseded by a gentleman of middle age, in the full possession of his personal and bodily faculties; reward Mr. Gifford for his exertions in the Antijacobin review, and exalt to his situation some individual who will not sacrifice the cause of justice to the cadence of a paragraph, or indite eulogies on Pitt, when he ought to be employed in the prevention of crime and the detection of guilt.

THE —— HOUSE SPY.

To obstruct the path to returning virtue, by denying forgiveness to repentance, or to urge the criminal to a desperate perseverance in iniquity, by visiting his former indiscretions with unrelenting severity, is one of the inevitable effects of satire indiscriminately applied or injudiciously conducted. It is the duty therefore of a public writer before he depreciates the present character of an individual, by recording his early progress in the ways of

vice, to enquire how far his youthful errors may have been expiated by the tenor of his later conduct, and to determine whether under all the circumstances of his life, to draw his frailties from their drear abode, may not be to gratify the curiosity of the public, at the expence of the general welfare, and of justice towards the obnoxious individual. It is to be feared that if the lives of all men even from the cradle to the grave were subjected to rigid scrutiny, but few would be found, who had not, at some period of existence, indulged in the contemplation of vices, from the commission of which they were only restrained by *circumstance.* The majority have been at some moment of their lives incipient traitors, robbers, and adulterers. Where the corruptions of human nature therefore have been excited into temporary action, it is both just and reasonable that subsequent return to virtue, of which the sincerity is attested by a long and steady perseverance, should be received as a proof that the triumph of vice was only momentary, and that the feelings and the principles of virtue have obtained a fixed and decided predominance.

That these considerations have been fully impressed on our minds during the repeated exercise of our satirical duty, we hope that no one who has honored our pages with a candid examination will deny. We have not selected any individual as the object of reprobation, unless his influence on the morals of the public were present and immediate. The security of ourselves and contemporaries from the contagion of vicious example, and from the rapacity of depredators who would have preyed on the incautious and unexperienced under the mask of fashion, or beneath the garb of virtue, has always been the chief object of our exertions. Wickedness that had long slumbered in inertion, or that had been in some degree expiated by subsequent reversion to the paths of virtue, we have permitted to retire from the gaze of public curiosity; but towards the hardened sinner, who after repeated exposure still perseveres in his course of iniquity,

and is too stupid to obey the dictates of prudence, or too insensible to feel the miseries of guilt, neither duty nor inclination will permit us to entertain the same forbearance.

Some of our readers indeed may be inclined to regard our exertions in the exposure of villainy with contempt, because some of the heroes of our narratives have derived their origin from, or have practised their early depredations among, the lower or middle classes of society. It naturally suggests itself to those who are unacquainted with the routine of periodical publications or who have observed the manners and constitution of society with a superficial and unenquiring eye, that a knowledge of the intrigues of such persons necessarily implies either a suspicious acquaintance with their haunts and habits, or a degrading indulgence in the collection of mean and petty scandal. But the task of ferreting out the history of a man's life for the purpose of satirical exposure, is a task that we gladly leave to the pursuit of those to whose temper and habits it may be congenial. What we have hitherto communicated to the world of the conduct and character of notorious persons, has either been the current conversation of the day, substantiated by evidence and embodied in our pages, or the legal and authenticated information of the victims of vice and profligacy, divested of the colouring that truth may have received from resentment and revenge. As the great, the wealthy, and the polished, are usually selected as the dupes of successful villainy, and are necessarily the most able to investigate the origin of their wrongs, and the best qualified to trace their authors through all their transformations and vicissitudes, we have seldom found it necessary to step beyond our usual circle of intercourse for the gratification of our enquiries, and for the materials of public exposition. What individual is better acquainted with the history of Sedley than Lord Headfort; or who is better qualified to elucidate the character of Dubost than Mr. Thomas Hope?

When the reader of a work like ours is startled by an occasional recurrence to vulgar life, he forgets how many of our fashionable characters, and how large a proportion of the most active managers of our public institutions, and the most renowned of our public benefactors and instructors, have derived their origin from lanes and alleys eastward of Temple Bar, and how closely they imitate all the habits of the inhabitants of Broad-street. The sons of prostitutes, who sport the *ci-devant* pupils of their mothers, barbers who have forsaken the razor for the whip, and discarded serving-men, who lend their quondam masters their own property at an interest of cent. per cent. are the most conspicuous *automata* who tread the *pavé*, and the most delightful animals who skim the road, and monopolize the park. To describe the fashionable world as it is, would be to begin with Dyot-street, and finish with Manchester-square. Let the L——, the Gr——, the M——s, and the L——s, express their indignation as they will: to swear, and drink, and talk bad grammar, and indulge in licentious conversation, would become the night-cellar or the apple-stall; to cheat a tradesman of a guinea, yet spend it on a harlot; to sacrifice integrity, and honor, and the principles of a gentleman, to the ambition of equivocal notoriety, is characteristic only of a poltroon; to rise by dirty and infamous arts from the shop-board to the drawing-room, deserves the gallows or the pillory: yet the gaze and the envy of the young, the patronage of the wealthy, and the plaudits of the great, are the rewards of him whose conduct is restrained by no observation of decorum, whose actions are regulated by convenience, and whose origin is as obscure as his principles are wicked, and his manners repulsive and contaminating.

The subject of our present strictures, has no other claims to the notice of the fashionable world, than the authority which his connection with the —— house enables him to exercise over their amusements. The persons to whom the management of that concern is entrusted, unacquainted we believe with his past history

or his genuine character, repose in his integrity the most unbounded confidence: the profits of his speculations as a coal merchant, enable him to gratify whatever caprice he may entertain, and to support the friends of Mr. Taylor in every mode of encroachment on the rights of others, and of annoyance to those obnoxious subscribers, who have stood forward as the champions of the public interest. By what fatality it happens that the majority of the courtiers who surround the monarch of the King's Theatre are the outcasts of society, and the opprobria of human nature, it would require the sagacity of a Stewart to explain; but it is not less certain than extraordinary, that Mr. —— is scarcely more worthy of public abhorrence than his brethren, though about fifteen years ago he was convicted under the name of Jones of burglary, and sentenced to seven years transportation.

His original profession was that of a hair-dresser. The ancient inhabitants of Mary-le-bone still remember his dexterity in the use of the razor, and his expertness in the noble art of manufacturing perriwigs. Like Lord Castlereagh and many other magnanimous gentlemen, whom nature intended for the bulk or the stable, he was inspired by the workings of an ambitious fancy, and resigned the humble scene of his tonsoric operations to some honest and but less enterprizing drudge, who preferred indigence to dishonesty, and thought a steady hand and a fine-edged razor, the noblest possessions to which human ambition could aspire. Love is always the attendant on great and enterprizing spirits. As bully therefore to a house of infamous notoriety, where he had formerly exercised his paternal profession, he obtained the most well-earned applause, and acquired the external recommendations of a stern countenance, a stately gait, and a boisterous elocution. One of the young ladies of the mansion was about to take a trip to France, and selected Mr. —— as her protector. On their arrival at Paris, she obtained a noble and wealthy dupe, and

liberally rewarded the services of her companion, who assumed a fictitious name, became a constant frequenter of the gambling houses and the theatres, and by the liberal display of his money, and the repeated mention of distinguished names among the nobility of England, obtained some degree of credit and of welcome among individuals whose proneness to conviviality exceeded their discriminative powers. One of these gentlemen he had drawn into an extensive speculation, of which he had nearly obtained the profits, when the unfortunate arrival at Paris of a gentleman to whom we are indebted for the materials of his history, gave an unexpected termination to his schemes. Our hero and his host were sitting at dinner, when the name of one of his oldest friends was announced. He made no difficulty in receiving him *en famille;* the first congratulations had scarcely subsided, before the host observed our adventurer and Mr. —— to look on each other with some peculiarity of expression. After dinner his friend requested him to retire for a few moments on private business. "Who," he asked, "is the gentleman who dines with you?"—"A gentleman of fortune from England; his name is Smith, and he is the intimate friend of Lord Moira, Mr. Fox, and General Fitzpatrick—one of the family of Sir Sidney, and one of the Prince's coterie!!"—"My dear friend," replied the other; "you are deceived—the fellow is a barber—I knew him under the name of ———, he has frequently shaved me, and I always found him to be an impudent, idle, lying vagabond—give me leave to treat him as he deserves!"—So saying, he proceeded to the dining room with the intention of inflicting upon his person a summary punishment; but the *ci-devant* barber conscious of his frauds, and suspecting the purport of their consultation, had already effected his retreat. His departure from Paris was as precipitate as the emergency required; but a great city is necessary to the perpetration of extensive and successful villainy, and London became once more his hiding and his resting-place.

By what arts he supported life, or in what iniquities he indulged till his appearance at the Old Bailey, it would be worse than useless to enquire. That he did remain at Botany Bay for the prescribed period of transportation we believe: nor should our pages have been devoted to the commemoration of his infamy, had misfortune taught him humility, or correction virtue.

For the last two years he has been chiefly distinguished as the factotum of a certain manager, and a busy and treacherous attendant at every meeting called by the creditors or proprietors. At a public meeting called by several individuals interested in theaffairs of the establishment, he distinguished himself as one of themost conspicuous and most active members,and was about to ascend the chair,when he was confounded by the entrance of the same individual who had contributed to his detection at Paris. He immediately disappeared; the surprize of the gentleman was extreme —as far as his personal influence extended, he cautioned the subscribers against confiding their property to his care, and warned his friends of the infamous association into which they had been betrayed; but in all public establishments dupe succeeds to dupe: wealth will cover a multitude of sins; and they who detest an individual as a rogue, will serve him as a master.

His riches have been obtained by practices of the most mean and fraudulent description. The sacks in which his coals are sent to the houses of the purchasers must be marked with the name of the owner at a certain distance from the top. Unfortunately the distance from the bottom is not mentioned in the act; and if as is usually the case the quantity delivered is not subjected to measurement, the shortness of the sacks, (for they are about six inches less at the bottom than they ought to be,) is not observed. His purchasers are defrauded of thirty per cent. on the value of the commodity, and the sums thus obtained are squandered on parasites and King-street prostitutes.

AMERICAN POETRY.

The character of a rising community like that of the United States is always a more pleasing object of prospective than of immediate contemplation. To embellish it therefore with adventitious attractions, and transmute the indications of future excellence into actual perfection, will always be a favorite amusement of the few speculative men whose leisure exceeds their talents, and whose patriotism overpowers their sense of honesty. Of these delusions, as far as relates to their religious and political institutions, we have before endeavoured to expose the fallacy; and we feel it our present duty, not only to demonstrate that their present claims to poetical excellence are unjust, but that any expectation of its attainment till after the lapse of many ages must be more than problematical.

How much the poetry of Europe has been indebted for its most pleasing ornaments, and its most interesting subjects to the fables of classical mythology, and the legends of popish superstition, it would be useless to explain. The delusions of ignorance and idolatry, however they may be regretted by the philanthropist, or despised by the philosopher, have always been a fertile source of materials to the poet. Nor have the local superstitions of our own country been less frequently adapted to the purposes of poetical amplification. The dramas of Macbeth, and of the Midsummer Night's Dream, are in themselves sufficient to demonstrate how much assistance the real poet can derive from the grossest absurdities of vulgar superstition. It is better for every purpose of the poet, that our groves should have been consecrated to Woden, and our rivers to Sabrina, than that they should be remembered as the haunts of cannibalism, or designated by barbarous and disgusting epithets.

There is no duty more congenial to the feelings, or

more worthy the genius of a poet, than to describe the manners and to celebrate the virtues of the early inhabitants of our native country. We love to trace, in the untutored wildness of the aboriginal Britons, the leading features of that manly and independent character, which is at once the pride and the security of their civilized descendants. The prowess of Boadicea, and the fortitude of Caractacus, will always excite emotions of retrospective enthusiasm in our people, of which bravery and intrepidity are the characteristic virtues. But to what period in the history of his country can the American look back with other feelings than humiliation and disgust? Those favored spots, which are now the seats of legislation and the emporia of commerce, were once the refuge of barbarians, cruel in prosperity, and servile in misfortune; allied by colour and disposition to the domestic slaves of their European conquerors, the objects of popular alarm and legislative jealousy. It is obvious that every sentiment of personal pride and patriotic attachment, will lead the successors of such a race to draw a veil over the early history of their country, and to turn aside from the scenery that has witnessed their warlike exploits, and their religious ceremonies, with feelings of indifference to its natural beauties, and of aversion for the people by whose crimes and abominations it has been polluted.

Deriving their origin from a country, which political events have taught them to regard with feelings of habitual hostility, the Americans have no ancestorial atchievements to record, no founder whom their patriotism will permit them to commemorate. To retrace the wanderings and celebrate the virtues of a Raleigh or a Penn, would be to emblazon the biographical annals of a nation, to which they are indebted not only for their political existence, but for all the refinements of civilized society. Their knowledge of science and of letters, and even that spirit of liberty which excited them to the establishment of independence, are borrowed from a people

whose proficiency in the arts of government, and the *literæ humaniores*, they no longer regard but with envious rivalry. The most transient allusion to the past is calculated to repress that fervor of patriotism, uninspired by which the productions of every writer, however gifted by nature, or improved by study, must be vapid and inanimate. An American poet can take no pleasure in the recollection of a period, when his native soil was dependent for its existence on the mother country, and if he confine the excursions of his fancy within the limits of the circle of events that has rolled its course since the establishment of American independence, what is there to be found that can ennoble his efforts, or animate his enthusiasm? His native scenery we have already shown to be unadapted to the purposes of poetry; and the artificial institutions which form the bulwarks of American society, have neither the beauty of youth, the stability of manhood, nor the dignity of age. Nothing that surrounds him, or that can present itself to his imagination, displays a single feature of the awful or the venerable. There are no national reliques of antiquity, over which the pensive may lament the uncertainty of life, and the instability of sublunary grandeur; no productions of the chissel or the pencil, which may recal to the lovers of virtue, and the admirers of genius, the remembrance of departed excellence; no princely institutions for the furtherance of piety and learning, and the relief of disease and indigence. There are no hospitals to commemorate the liberality of her merchants; no cathedrals to attest the rank of her clergy, or the piety of her people; nor any university to celebrate the munificence of her statesmen. The numerous sources of poetical association, that arise from the contemplation of the inanimate memorials of genius, piety, and valour, must for many ages remain unopened to our American descendants.

Such therefore are the local disadvantages to which a transatlantic poet is subjected, that he neither possesses any national subject of poetical celebration, nor

if he were able to select from the history of mankind a theme worthy of his genius, would he be able to elevate and adorn it, by that association of sentiment and imagery which peculiarly distinguishes the poet from the rhymster. But should it not be forgotten that from all the *foreign* sources to which a European poet can refer for a theme of epic celebration, when the events of his own country are apparently exhausted, he is equally excluded. With what pleasure could a republican record the exploits of princes, or celebrate the virtues of a hereditary episcopacy? The pomp of courts, and the "pride and circumstance of war" must be contemplated by an American poet through the spectacles of books, and he therefore views them without distinctness or enthusiasm. There still remains so much of kingly splendor, and knightly courtesy, among the different nations of Europe, that the magnificence of the feudal and chivalrous ages is neither uncongenial to the feelings nor beyond the powers of an attentive observer of modern manners, or a poet conversant with the monuments of former ages. But the pride of a noble aristocracy, and the ostentation of romantic valour, are equally abhorrent from the prepossessions, and uncongenial to the imagination of a republican merchant and agriculturist; and should it happen by some strange caprice of fortune that an American endowed with the qualifications of a poet, is a secret admirer of monarchical government, his necessary unacquaintance with all the accompaniments of kingly grandeur and the splendid scenery of courts, must subject him to the necessity of substituting laboured declamation for the natural and appropriate expression of his feelings.

That "great and glorious struggle" which terminated in the independence of America is totally unsusceptible of poetical embellishment. There was nothing generous in the motives of the people, or romantic in the character of their chief. We are afraid that however well the moral virtues and the constitutional intrepidity of

Washington may be adapted to a regular eulogy, he would bear but an unfavorable comparison as the hero of an epic poem, with the bullies and barbarians of ancient Greece. It may be as praiseworthy for a people to resist the payment of a stamp duty as to fight in defence of their altars and their homes, but it is not equally poetical : a nation of warriors struggling against the overbearing power of cruelty and lust, will always be a more interesting spectacle than a commercial populace, whose first emotions of political enthusiasm terminate in the seizure of a cargo of tea and the demolition of a custom-house. It was not the hope of saving five per cent. on the value of their morning beverage that fired the breasts of the heroes of Thermopylæ.

Nor will the American poet be able to atone for his inevitable deficiency in the higher qualities of poetry, by his superiority in the humble requisites of style and versification. It would be trifling with the patience of our readers to prove that the further a colony recedes from its mother country in policy and manners, the more will the purity of its original diction be violated, and the delicacies of its idiom be forgotten. Whatever be his ambition or assiduity, a writer will not long be able to preserve his language and phraseology uncontaminated by the barbarisms and impurities of colloquial intercourse. His style will display all the stiffness and embarrassment that characterize the compositions of the modern Latinist, without his purity of diction or correctness of construction : in his most successful efforts the lighter shades of synonomic difference will glide into indistinctness, and all flexibility of expression be therefore unattainable.

To causes such as these rather than to the influence of climate may be ascribed the apparent sterility of American genius. It is not the existence of poetical power in the inhabitants of the new continent that we are disposed to deny, but the possibility of its developement ; and there is too much reason to conclude that the same obstacles will produce the same effects, for a period that

would exhaust even the patience of Mr. Jefferson. Though the positions of Montesquieu be more ingenious than correct, and the statue of the Abbe Raynal less remarkable for justice than asperity, the hopes of the American president do more credit to his patriotism than his philosophy.

As we are not of opinion that the progress of genius is bounded by the accidental peculiarities of geographical situation, that one country shall excel in the arts of life, and in every liberal pursuit, because it has been favoured by the hand of nature with every charm of native scenery; or that another shall be condemned to intellectual sterility, because its soil is barren, and its sky inclement: as we cannot persuade ourselves to believe that wit and imagination are influenced by every change of climate and every variation of the needle, or that the mental faculties partake so much of the grossness of material things, as to be sublimed to volatility by the heats of Barca, and frozen to inertness amidst the snows of Lapland, we shall not so far imitate the writers we have mentioned, as to deny the Americans the praise of literary capability, because their view is limited on one side by a vast and boundless ocean, and their inquiries exhausted on the other by interminable forests. But it is obvious that many of the causes we have enumerated, as having hitherto retarded the expansion of American genius, will retain their force amidst all the storms of political convulsion; and that the greater number of them will produce their usual effect, as long as their present form of worship and government shall continue. A nation that possesses no established system and belief, and of which the religious ceremonies are as discordant and capricious as its provincial customs, will never be able to derive any accession of poetical imagery and allusion from the duration of its political existence. In a country so distracted by schism, the poet must either espouse the sentiments of his own sect, and thus degrade his production by the quibbles of controversial

divinity, or he must wave the introduction of every christian doctrine, and thus confine himself to those general principles of natural theology, which being simple in themselves, and obvious to the feeblest imagination, neither require nor admit the aid of poetical amplification. The effusions of pure theism, which human genius has been able to produce, are few in number, and depend for their excellence not on sublimity of thought; for the attributes of the Almighty rather oppress than invigorate the flight of a poetical fancy, but on that felicity of expression and purity of language, which we have already demonstrated to be without the reach of American emulation. When we consider how much the poets of modern Europe have been indebted to the union of church and state, and to the influence which that alliance produces on the manners of the people; and when we contemplate the feelings of prescriptive veneration, with which the monuments of ancient piety are regarded by the multitude, and how much the expression of sympathy in those feelings embellishes and animates the compositions of our national poets, we shall be easily convinced that an established religion is one of the most important sources of political delight. Let those who estimate its influence at a trifling value, refer once more to the elegies of Gray and Mason, to the night-piece of Parnell, and to almost every other production that melts us by its pathos, or delights us by its beauty.

The spirit of transatlantic liberty has an irresistible tendency to evaporate in petty jealousies and local quarrels; and the patriotism of the poet, instead of extending its views to the general interests of the empire, is circumscribed by the narrow boundaries of his native province. In England the prosperity of counties and corporations, is gladly sacrificed to the welfare of the community: in America, on the contrary, the great object of contention is not whether peace or war will conduce to the collective interests of the empire, but whether Pensylvania shall

suffer more from a rupture with Europe than Connecticut, or Virginia derive greater advantages from a commercial treaty than New York: the laureat of a republic thus torn by intestine rivalry, will never have a subject more worthy of celebration than the procession of an electioneering rabble, nor any emotion of patriotism more pure and exalted than that of a London alderman at a turtle feast.

To these observations it will be triumphantly replied that the American poet is content to resign the crimes of princes and the miseries of war, to the congenial temper of his European predecessors; that the pride of hereditary rank, and the bigotry of an intolerant religion are equally the objects of his derision and abhorrence; and that he will gladly yield to the slaves of greatness, and the advocates of murder, all the pretensions of a poet, if he can be distinguished by the noble but less envied title of a CHAMPION OF PHILANTHROPY.

The boast of independence and philanthropy is always in the mouth of an American; but on what foundation does he rest his claims to a possession so valuable, and a virtue so exalted? The squabbles of an American senate would disgrace a meeting of turnpike commissioners; and we may therefore conclude that the principles and interest of the people are sacrificed to the private animosities of their representatives: the retention of twelve hundred thousand slaves in hopeless bondage is congenial to the habits of the nation, and sanctioned by the edicts of the legislature; and we may therefore suppose, without injustice, that they are acquainted only with the name of liberty, and that their philanthropy evaporates in flowery declamation, or rhapsodical enthusiasm.

THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND AND MAJOR SEYMOUR DAVIES.

Excited by a very natural expectation of degrading his exalted oppressor in the estimation of the people, and impelled by the prospect of pecuniary relief from the embarrassments to which he had been subjected by his subservience, Major Davies has committed to the public a narrative of his transactions with the Duke of Cumberland, from the date of the Hampshire election in 1806, to the termination of their correspondence, in August, 1810. His statement, however, while it fully exemplifies the enormous influence of the crown, and places the conduct and character of his Royal Highness in a very unfavorable point of view, does no credit to himself. Throughout the whole of the transaction that gave occasion to this pamphlet, he acted the part of a man perfectly willing to sacrifice his duty to his interests, and ready to betray any trust that might be reposed in him for an adequate compensation. On the public commiseration he has no other claim than that which may be granted to poverty, by whatever misconduct he may have drawn it upon himself; and though its sale may renumerate him for the labour of its composition, its circulation can have no tendency to redeem his character with the virtuous or respectable part of the community.

But whatever may be the feelings with which Major Davies's statement is received by the unambitious part of the public, it is both the duty and the interest of the members of the house of commons, and of every conspicuous individual engaged in the administration of public affairs, or mingling in the contests of political party, to espouse his cause and eulogize his virtues. In electioneering contests every artifice is fair; and how, therefore, can they suffer the major to be punished for an act which on their own principles was

perfectly justified by its expedience? To sacrifice every feeling of duty and conscience to the purposes of personal ambition, is the acknowledged privilege of every politician; and why is infidelity to his employers more criminal in a Davies, than the purchase of boroughs in a Castlereagh, or the sacrifice of the catholics to party convenience in a Howick? To deceive and betray his constituents, is surely as wicked in a member of parliament, as to outwit the treasury; and the major had at least as plain a right to sell his personal services to the Duke of Cumberland, as Col. B. or the Hon. Mr. F. to transfer the voters on his estate to the disposal of Mr. Yorke.

He informs us that when the contested election took place for the county of Hampshire, in September 1806, he was the resident assistant barrack master general of that district, an office of great importance, trust and confidence, carrying with it the most considerable influence with the freeholders in every town where the barracks were erected.

This influence arose, in consequence of the different farmers and tradesmen furnishing supplies, either for building, or articles of every description used or consumed in a barrack, being considerably under his controul. At this period administration concluded that his active and personal exertions were necessary to secure the return of the two government candidates, Messrs. Thistlethwayte and Herbert.—Conclusively he received directions and *orders* (!) from the secretary of the treasury for effectually supporting the views and interests of the above-mentioned gentlemen: these orders were followed by various letters and official documents from general Hewitt, barrack master general, containing further and more complete instructions for his guidance to secure success to the administration. Thus fortified with his authorities, he proceeded vigilantly upon the canvass when he was stopped in his career by the arrival of his royal highness the duke of Cumberland at Winchester, who imme-

diately commanded his attendance, with orders that he was not to remain an instant before he presented himself to him. The moment that he received the duke's commands he followed the orderly serjeant that brought them into the presence of his Royal Highness.

Major Davies asserts that in the conversations in this and the subsequent interviews, his royal highness told him "that he had been *playing the devil*—that he was *cursedly* vexed and angry—that by refusing to support Sir Henry Mildmay, the major was refusing his royal highness's protection? And that he promised, on condition of his delivering up the confidential papers committed to him by the treasury, to get him a better situation, to bear him harmless, and to bear on his *broad shoulders* the whole weight of the blame." On this last assurance the major delivered up the papers, and the duke "converted them to his own political views." Of the conversations, however, we have no other evidence than the testimony of the major himself, though his observations on the result give to his narration an air of probability. "Now is there one (military man) to be selected that can suppose I would of my own accord volunteer giving up documents so serious, the parting with which *must eventually* injure me, *must eventually* destroy my prospects of future advancement, and render my situation unpleasant by the loss of official confidence? No man in the kingdom can suppose me guilty of such matchless folly. I repeat and sacredly declare that the duke of Cumberland's *influence* and *pledges* induced me to act as I have done; and this *influence* over my actions was well known to every freeholder in Winchester. His royal highness's promises have been completely at variance with his actions: I became his dupe, and am now his victim."

His royal highness was now in possession of the details of Major Davies's interviews with the friends of the candidates, particularly Lords Caernarvon and Temple, and the directions givento him touching the places where he could be most useful; also as well as with copies of

his correspondence and reports to the Barrack master general. In fact, every transaction that had occurred, from the commencement of his orders to that day, was laid open to Sir Henry; who thus obtained the opportunity of counteracting every plan that had been formed against him. Mr. Deverel, the agent for the government candidates for the election, and residing at Winchester, finding from the major that he had shewn the papers to the duke, earnestly requested that he would consign them to his charge; promising at the same time to place him out of the reach of the duke's displeasure, by enabling him to *retire on his full salary.* Lords Caernarvon and Temple advised him to burn every vestige of writing coming from government, and by no means to give them to the duke; for if he (said Lord Caernarvon) gets possession of them, we shall, I suppose, have a parliamentary squabble about their contents. With this advice, however, the major did not comply.

The duke requested him to deposit the papers with Mr. Rose at Cuffnells. This gentleman was at that time one of the *outs,* and therefore interested in their production: but on the subject being moved by Sir Henry Mildmay, the motion was lost, and no necessity found therefore for the presence of the major. On the return of the Pittites to office, they naturally felt that he who had betrayed their predecessors, would betray them, whenever it might accord with his interest or convenience. Discountenanced by government, the major lost perceptibly the confidence of the barrack-master general. He therefore informed his royal highness of the awkward and irritating state to which he was reduced, and requested his removal from that particular department. To this application the Duke returned for answer "*the barrack people dare as well be damned as injure you.*"

At length after being subjected to many mortifications and discouragements the major was dismissed, on charges apparently frivolous in themselves, and only adduced at present, because to adduce them was convenient.

When he saw the Duke of Cumberland, and informed him of the uncommon transaction that had happened, he received many assurances of putting matters to rights. "It required no great effort, (he observes,) of his Royal Highness's interest, for I was so harrassed with ill health, and the combination of events so recently vexatious, that I only requested the lowest half-pay. The duke desired me to give him a petition, confessed the case was hard and mysterious, and requested me to leave the rest to him."

He gave the required document to his royal highness, and felt himself perfectly convinced of what he denominates "the vivacity of his assertion. *Patience* was recommended when he called at St. James's palace, and at the end of nine months he discovered his petition lying upon His Royal Highness's table in his study, where it had peaceably rested from the day of its delivery."

The major now applied to the Duke of Cambridge, who took upon himself to explain the subject of their interview; and the result of his Royal Highness's condescension was a command for the major's attendance at St. James's.

He accordingly obtained an interview. It was agreed to write a second petition, to which the Duke promised to pay more attention than to the first. *Eighteen months* wore away, yet he could obtain nothing satisfactory: his appeals, his letters, and his attendance on the duke were equally fruitless. At length he obtained permission to see Mr. Perceval, the chancellor of the Exchequer, to whom his royal highness had transmitted the petition. The minister informed him that the application had been nearly forgotten: that it was true the duke had put a paper into his hands, but it did not occur that there was any particular desire expressed by his royal highness to have it complied with! The duke had been ill, which had prevented of late any intercourse; he would however send an answer to St. James's in a day or two. A month arrived before this day or two elapsed; he then addressed Mr. Perceval by letter, and obtained an answer, in which for

want of support his petition was refused. His Royal Highness appended to this unwelcome intelligence that he would do no more, or interfere in any shape whatever.

Such is a summary of the major's statement, expressed in his own language as nearly as brevity would admit, with as much delicacy towards all the parties concerned as is justified by the tenor of the narrative.

How superior the ministers themselves were to all corrupt and sordid considerations; how warmly they felt for the happiness of their country and the welfare of its people; how justly and generously they suffered the real merits of the major to outweigh his momentary and occasional errors; and with what eagerness they listened to any suggestion that might lend to alleviate our burthens and contribute to our security, their conduct subsequent to the exertions of the major in diminishing the expences of the department over which he possessed a jurisdiction, sufficiently evince. The barracks in the county of Durham were loaded with exorbitant rents. The disregard of economy in the expenditure of this department was glaring and wanton. To put an end to such wasteful and useless prodigality, he deemed it necessary to use his most strenuous efforts. By diligence and perseverance he succeeded, and brought the proprietors to take about one half of the original rents, though many of them were armed with leases or agreements. On this occasion what is the conduct of the board? So far from rewarding the major's past exertions, and encouraging him to perseverance by any marks of official attention, or any promise of future advancement, they were pleased to inflict on his conduct an oblique censure, and to inform him that he ought to have communicated with them before he had proceeded to alter the rents! His interference was never forgiven, and shortly afterwards he received a final *dismissal*.

Copy of the affidavit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, on evidence at Westminster Hall, in an action of trover, for the recovery of the papers alluded to between Major Davies and the Right Hon. George Rose.

Times, July 16, 1811.

His royal highness the Duke of Cumberland said, that he was present at an interview between the parties at Cuffnells, five years ago, in September or October, 1806. His royal highness remembered that some papers were delivered to the defendant then, which the plaintiff had previously brought to the duke, knowing his royal highness was a friend of Sir Henry Mildmay. His royal highness told him it was utterly impossible for him as a peer of parliament to interfere in any election; but if the papers would be of any use to Sir H. Mildmay, the plaintiff might give them to the defendant —he did so, and told the defendant that he was at liberty to make what use of them he pleased. His R.

Winchester, Nov. 3d. 1806.

Sir,

I am desired to inform you, that St. Barbe, the banker at Lymington is a particular friend of Mr. Rose, and to desire you will be so good as to send here the names of the voters you have obtained at Lymington.

I am, Sir,

your obedient servant,

B. C. Stephenson,

(First Aid de Camp and Secretary to His R. Highness.)

Major Davies.

"His royal highness was in possession of the details of my interviews with the friends of the (ministerial) candidates, particularly Lords Caernarvon and Temple, and the directions given to me touching the places where I could be most useful, also copies of my correspondence, and reports to the barrack master general—in fine, every transaction that had occurred from the commencement of my orders to that day—this disclosure furnishing Sir Harry Mild-

He was then the general commanding that district, and told the plaintiff he was going to call at the defendant's, and the plaintiff might meet his royal highness there.

His R. H. being asked as to the supposed paper of instructions to Major Davies, in what towns and places to canvass, said upon cross-examination that his directions to the major were to attend to his duty, and not to interfere in the election. His R. H. had been *two or three times* applied to, from the plaintiff to get him half-pay, but not *immediately from him:* since the action upon enquiry into the circumstances of his appliation it was not found practicable to grant it. This was twelve months ago.

There were no further applications to His Royal Highness, except for papers. At the same time that the plaintiff applied to the defendant, his R. H. had not one of the papers. *All that he had* were given to Sir Henry Mildmay lately deceased.

may with every plan formed against him," &c.&c.&c.

Statement, page 20.

In Major Davies's pamphlet, are published more than twenty letters addressed immediately to the Duke, of which the receipt is acknowledged by his private secretary. Of these the two following are extracted on account of then brevity.

St. James's,
July 11, 1810.

I am commanded by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, to acquaint you, that in conformity to your request, his Royal Highness is pleased to sanction your waiting on Mr. Percival to urge the prayer of your application,

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your very obedient servant,
Fred. B. Watson, Sec.

Windmill Street,
May 3d, 1810.

Sir,

This letter will bring before your Royal Highness the situation of a man and his family, now reduced

to the lowest pitch of suffering: this picture must naturally occur to your Royal Highness, where such a length of time has elapsed since my resourceless state has been known to you: you have promised relief but this promise has been forgotten by your Royal Highness.

The horrors of want can no longer be concealed, distress will force my case to be public, and when known, every human mind will feel for a being sacrificed as I am.

With the most dutiful respect, I am,
your Royal Highnesses
most obedient servant,
J. SEYMOUR DAVIES.

To General H. R. H. the Duke of Cumberland.

On the general points of contradiction between the affidavit of his Royal Highness and the corroborated statement of Major Davies, any observation would be superfluous; but it is impossible to pass without remark, the discordance between the answers given by his Royal Highness on his direct and his cross examination. In the first he evidently leaves the court and jury to infer that he never received the papers, but rejected the offer of their acceptance, because it was " impossible as a peer of parliament to interfere in any election;"—in the second he admits that they were for some time in his possession, and that all *he had were (ultimately)* given to Sir Henry Mildmay.

By preventing the appearance of the present statement, the Duke of Cumberland would have performed an act of service to himself, and of duty to his family. The junior descendants of the house of ——— are of all men the most guilty or the most unfortunate. Whatever has been communicated to the English people of their actions and their characters is unfavorable. They possess no loftiness of principle, yet want the dignity of manners that embellishes vice and ennobles meanness; they are proverbially deficient in natural endowments, yet are destitute of that common-place discretion which evades contempt by retiring from observation, and is content to resign the honors of superior wisdom, if it be suffered to escape without the mortifications that are due to impertinent stupidity. How deeply would the bosom of a parent in humble life be afflicted were his children to resemble in character, or imitate in their pursuits the progeny of ——————! Neither the dupe of an unprincipled libeller because he was first the slave of a vulgar and servile prostitute, nor the refugee from a foreign possession, because he had taught its soldiers to regard him with abhorrence, and its inhabitants to pronounce the name of England with regret, nor the —— who takes once more a discarded mistress to his arms, because the poor remember his brutality and the rich despise him, has any just occasion of complaint, if the liberty of the press be employed to its most ample extent in the exposition of his character. The expression of public opinion will not be restrained, and in proportion to the loyalty and affection of a public writer to the father, will be the watchfulness with which he regards, and the severity with which he endeavours to amend, the conduct of the children.

THE REVIEWER, No. VIII.

THE LIFE OF RICHARD CUMBERLAND, ESQ., &c. BY WILLIAM MUDFORD.

To say that the author of this valuable publication has brought forward a work which can be read with interest, after the memoirs which Cumberland has left us of himself is to confer no inconsiderable praise. "When" (he observes) "the memoirs of Cumberland were published, I was forcibly impressed with their insufficiency in all that regarded the estimation of his literary character; and while I found in them all that could be wished about the man, I was conscious that whenever his death should happen, an ample and interesting opportunity would occur for the union of his personal history, with a minute enquiry into the pretensions of the author." He has entered, therefore, into very minute and ingenious strictures on the most prominent of Cumberland's productions; and if he has added but little to the anecdotes of his personal character already known, he contributes to our instruction and entertainment, by making them the ground-work of moral and critical deduction.

The extent of Mr. Mudford's reading has enabled him to display a copiousness of illustration, and a felicity of comparison, that fully compensates for the want of personal acquaintance with the subject of his biography; and he possesses a manly independence of opinion, that without degenerating into perverseness, contributes to elevate his work above those stupid and common place repositories of critical dullness, which contentedly echo the opinions of the multitude; of which the compilers mistake timidity for candor, and regard the honest expression of an original sentiment, as unjust to the dead, and insulting to the living.

As a specimen of the entertaining matter with which his papers abound, we select the following anecdote:

"In No. 50, there is an attempt to illustrate the modern

mode of theatrical criticism, by an imaginary enquiry into the tragedy of *Othello*, supposed to be written the day after its first performance. The idea is ingenious, but the merit of invention does not belong to Cumberland: at last a similar conception occured to another writer, and was reduced to practice some years before the appearance of his *Observer*. This writer was Mr. Pinkerton, who published some verses in 1782 called "Rimes," and which he believed tobe poetry. The critics thought otherwise, however, and told him so: but he was as little qualified to remain tranquil beneath the lash as Cumberland could be. By some accident the volume arrived at a second edition, and Mr. Pinkerton appeared armed for encounter with his opponents. In his advertisement he called them all dunces, but makes no attempt to prove them so: he utters the filthiest abuse and deems it humour; he dwells with the most offensive egotism upon his own praises, and calls it a vindication of himself. He does more also. To shame his enemies and to convince mankind that they are a race of hopeless blockheads, he gives a translation from a presumed Greek MS. "reposited in a leaden box and found in an ancient dunghill," which proves to be a critique upon the first Pythian Ode of Pindar, and is written with as much vulgarity and silliness as Mr. Pinkerton could devise. This was to assure the world that modern critics wrote with vulgarity and silliness: he supposes also another critique to be found in the ruins of Herculaneum, and forming the cover to a pie, upon some of Horace's odes written just after their production, distinguished only for feeble malice and abortive wit. Nay he makes a third discovery, of some critical remarks upon Dryden's ode, which surpass in all that is despicable and insignificant, either of the preceding artificial antiquities. If the reader will forgive me for polluting my pages with such ineffable nonsense, he may be satisfied of what I say by reading the following paragraphs, which comprise the whole of this bastard progeny of resentment and dullness. It is supposed to be copied from a MS. dated May 16th, 1701.

Cryticall remarques upon Mr. Dryden's Odd called Alexandre's feast. By Burnaby Burman, Clarke of the parish of Cammerwell, A. M. A. S. S.

" Abracadabra. De profundis clamavi. Poeta nascitur non fit. Oratur fit non nascitur. Quæ masculis tribuuntur mascula sunto (copied from bookes, so am shure they are richt spelt). I quot these verses of the Greeke poetee, curteous reder, to shew thee that I am not unqualifyed for the tasque I have taken in hande, but on the contrarie am embued with pulite learninge.

This poeme beginnith thus : " Twas at the royal feste," &c. How wulgar is this, it resemblith a drinkinge songe. The author seemeth not to knowe the difference betwixt an odd and a songe, which is as followeth, viz. a long odd is a short song, and a long songe is a short odd. Now an odd should never be in a common stoile, but as we say in an odde stoile. Q. E. D.

That lyne ' so should desert in arms be crowned,' is of verie bad example. If deserters be crowned, trew soldiers must be whipt in their place. So what is sauce for a goose is sauce for a gaunder.

'Happy, happy, happy paire,' might have been paired thus : 'Happy, three pair,' which would have saved wryting the word happy thrice over.---Qu. if it should not be nappy ?

' Timotheus placed on high,' read perched on high. For ' flying fingers' we ought surely to read ' frying fingers.' Annie flying fingers, I never chanced to see ; frying fingers are common in playing on a wind instrument, such as the ancient harpe was.

' A dragon's fiery form belyed the god.' If a dragon gave a god the lye he ocht to have hadde his nose pulled, fiery as he was.

In the IV. handsau we read of slaying the slain thrice, a thing in my judgment not altogether possibil. We likewise rede the word ' fallen ' five times over. An egregious absurditie ! For if a man is once fallen he cannot fall again, till he has got on his legges. Now legges are not once mentioned.

In No. VI. we meet with ghosts, (Jesu protect me ; for as I lyve, I saw a ghost last nyghte at Peter Haynes's barne door,) that in battle were slayn. A ghost slayer ! Oh ! heaven what nonsense. The conclusion is mighty prettye. But upon the hole this piece is not equal to anie of the noble productions of a Mr. Thomas Durfey. Amen.

The intellectual character of Cumberland was not distinguished by grand or comprehensive features. He had more resemblance to the lynx than to the monarch of the forest. Within a certain boundary of vision his conceptions were at once vivid and distinct, but he was incapable of comprehensive observation, and destitute of that creative power which exalts the mean and aggrandizes the trivial. He was one of those writers whom the continually operating impulse of ambition cherished by opportunity will at any time produce. Had fortune denied him the preliminaries of education, he would not have risen to distinction by the force of original genius; had the operation of circumstances favorable to the developement and cultivation of literary taste, terminated with his departure from the university, though he might have written with the same perseverance and enthusiasm, that actually marked the progress of his literary career, he would not have risen about the successive thousands of the eighteenth century, whose effusions are only recorded in the columns of the reviews. Nature in her formation of his mind had done little, but that little was cultivated with exemplary care, and called into action by the rare concurrence of the most propitious circumstances. Compared with Johnson he bore the same resemblance to that celebrated man, which the block of marble polished and fashioned by the hand of the architect bears to the diamond. The value of the one is independent of the artist, who no otherwise contributes to its worth than by eliciting the inherent value of the native gem: whatever pleasure or admiration the other may excite is exclusivelygranted to the skill of the workman and the value of the workmanship: its beauties are adventitious to the original material, which is not admired for its abstract value, but for the form into which its uncouth proportions have been moulded, and the ornaments that embellish or diversify its surface.

There is no other instance of a writer obtaining an eminent name in literature, with so few pretensions to the more valuable powers of the mind, and the more

poignant feelings of the heart. He is seldom animated and never eloquent; he was not remarkable for profundity of learning or delicacy of taste: he seldom attempted philosophical or metaphysical enquiry; and of wit and humour he was singularly destitute. He possessed no exuberance of imagination, nor any susceptibility of exciting the more pathetic emotions. Few men have written so much on the manners of the world, or so frequently depicted the passions of mankind, who have affected us so little. His readers seldom feel the ardor of enthusiasm, and never indulge in the luxury of grief. He never excites astonishment, or impatience, or laughter; in reading his works we sometimes smile, and usually approve; but to excite the complacence of his readers is generally all the merit that he can justly claim, and to do this is no evidence of extraordinary powers.

His real merits however are so great that with all these admissions he may claim a respectable place among the writers of the eighteenth century. That uncomprehensive minuteness of perception that formed the prominent feature of his intellectual character, contributed by its very circumscription to the excellence of his dramatic and biographical sketches. His field of view was circumscribed, but within its circle he saw with peculiar quickness and accuracy; by the exclusion of surrounding objects the images that came within his sphere of vision were presented to his eye in the most and appropriate hues and distinct proportions. When he attempts therefore to catch those minutiæ of manners which to abler men would have been invisible or evanescent, he is always successful. The operation of the same principle will account for the imperfection of his dramatic characters, and for the general excellence of his dialogue. In the invention of his *dramatis personæ* he was obliged to have recourse not to his memory but to fancy; instead of describing a particular individual whom he had seen, he is compelled to paint an ideal cha-

racter with general habits, and possible peculiarities; and his imaginary portraits are therefore seldom any thing more than hasty and general outlines, without much expression of character, or dexterity of finishing. In dialogue he is only successful, when he appropriates the common language of middle life to the persons of his drama. When he endeavours to invent a characteristic phraseology for any of his dramatic favorites, he loses the fidelity of art, without exhibiting the creative felicity of nature.

As a scholar his knowledge was more classical than profound or various. To his acquaintance with the Greek dramatists, his translation from Aristophanes, bears honorable testimony; but his remembrance of the ancient writers was rather general than particular, and the minutiæ of classical criticism, had either never become the objects of his study, or had been dismissed from his attention during the later years of his life. He could quote Homer, and feel his spirit, and determine the meaning of his moral or playful passages with peculiar facility; but had any passage of that poet been adduced in his presence to illustrate a disputed point in the mythology or history of the ancients, he would have sunk into convenient inattention. No man was more able to draw a parallel between the similar passages of Pindar and Cowley; but to decide on a disputed point of metre, or to trace the history of English style, and poetical phraseology, he was more humbly qualified than thousands of contemporaries, to whom nature had denied even a trivial portion of his talents and attainments. He possessed, of course, a general intimacy with the belles lettres; but his stores of literary illustration, were neither copious nor original: he had seldom wandered beyond that regular path of reading, which is expected to be trod by every well bred man, who pretends to a taste for literature: he seldom delighted his companions by his exuberance, instructed them by his accuracy, or surprised them by his abstruseness.

These observations are not intended to depreciate the

character of Cumberland beyond their proper level; but to place his literary fame on the only basis by which its stability can be secured. If the writings of Cumberland be read as the productions of a sensible man mingling much with society, and observing its general forms, and the peculiarities of the individuals that composed it, with unusual quickness and distinctness of perception, their fame will be more lasting, and their utility more extensive, than if they were transmitted to posterity as the production of commanding genius, splendid learning, and irresistible vivacity. By all his compositions the learned may be instructed, the fastidious entertained, and the virtuous improved. Of this praise how few have been deserving, and how rare are the endowments that could entitle their possessor to a more exalted tribute of critical justice!

In the preface to Mr. Mudford's work, a letter is inserted from Sir James Bland Burgess, in which that gentleman observes, that "his great excellence was chiefly shewn in conversation, in which his entertaining powers were unequalled. Those who lived most with him, could best appreciate this: but this like Garrick's acting vanished with him, and no adequate representations of it can be conveyed to posterity." As a most appropriate comment on this passage, Mr. Mudford has quoted the opinion of Mr. Hewson Clarke, a gentleman connected with him in the London Review, and the confidential friend of Cumberland, and his intended biographer. That the vicissitudes of fortune should have prevented their intercourse for the last six months of his life, we fervently regret.

The colloquial efforts of Mr. Cumberland were in "no degree above the ordinary level. He was not peculiarly distinguished for the profundity of his detached observations, or the brilliance of his occasional repartees; to warm or extended argument he had an invincible aversion, and nature had denied him the polished fluency of his friend Sir James Bland Burgess. He never *led* the conversation of his social circle, or sustained its vigor by

the animation of his influence. Yet his casual remarks, when they were not distinguished by acuteness or brilliance, were characterized by that terse felicity of expression which constitutes the chief excellence of his memoirs: if he did not predominate in conversation, he gave relief to the colloquial contests of more ambitious speakers; and if he seldom poured forth the treasures of his own intellectual stores, he displayed peculiar dexterity in the formation of hints, and the application of questions, that might call into display the natural or acquired endowments of his friends."

"It may account in some degree for the extent of his colloquial reputation, that his deportment was in the highest degree impressive and engaging. The smile that played upon his lip embellished many a common-place sentiment; and the graceful yet dignified elegance of his address, gave weight to opinions, that from a less favored speaker, would have been received with contemptuous silence, or acquiescent indifference. Though a Johnson might in the presence of Cumberland have felt his own superiority, he would not have ventured to display it: even while he unconsciously unveiled the less amiable features of his character, he averted the resentment of his auditors, or softened their dislike by the fascination of his manner; and those who could not but acknowledge his susceptibility to the minor vices, were astonished on reflection at the coldness of their dislike and the reluctance of their condemnation."

"He was so fond of flattery himself, that he believed it to be acceptable to his friends, even in the most disgusting form or the most exuberant proportions. He was the easy and delighted dupe of every juvenile parasite, who found it convenient to barter adulation for patronage: and the first number of the London Review bears melancholy evidence, that his own fame and the gratification of the public, were not of sufficient importance to outweigh the grateful drivelling, or the fawning meanness of a youthful protegé, who "melted his last guinea

into a picture-frame, for his honored portrait to be hung as a reverential monitor above his chimney-piece."

That these observations are correct as far as they extend, the testimony of every friend, and the internal evidence of all his compositions conspire to prove: his pages are crowded with reciprocations of compliment, and with eulogies that have no apparent purpose but to court return. In proportion, likewise, as he valued praise, he was alive to censure: no man felt more acutely the sarcasms of the daily journalists, or the reproaches of criticism. To evade them, was the great business of his life; and his writings are therefore pervaded by a tone of candor and of tenderness towards others, which sometimes degenerates into affectation, and may sometimes be unjustly mistaken for hypocrisy. If in the contest with Lowth, and on one or two less important occasions, he ventured to expose himself to the hostility of literature, he did not forget, in any of these instances, that he came forth in a cause of all others the best calculated to awaken the sympathy and the gratitude of his contemporaries. The champion of a Bentley against the calumnies of jealousy and ignorançe, no sooner advances to the charge, than he is hailed by the united welcome of the hosts of literature.

His desire of pleasing was indeed so strong, that scarcely an hour elapsed, in which its operation did not subject him to the charge of insincerity. He complimented every individual whom he met, without being conscious that he did so; and when he only exercised the common privilege of discussing the conduct and describing the characters of his casual acquaintances, he falsely appeared to be guilty of gross and deliberate hypocrisy. But there was no design in what he did: his compliments were like the superscriptions of his letters, matters of course; and his opinion of the individuals whom he censured were seldom regarded by the circle to whom they were addressed, as trespassing beyond the bounds of propriety and justice.

It appears to the writer of this article, however, that envy was no feature of his character. Allow him that praise to which he conceived his own attainments entitled; (and compared with the expectation of authors in general his claims were moderate,) he would readily confess the superiority of his literary contemporaries. His jealousy did not proceed from uneasiness at the success of others, but was the result of fear for himself: admit his own pretensions to the throne, and he cared not by how many rivals it might be shared.

Had Mr. Clarke been enabled to finish the sketch he has drawn, he would in all probability have relieved its darker tints, by many touches of an amiable character. In Cumberland the love of praise was only equalled by the warmth of his friendship and the ardor of his gratitude. His flatteries were at the command of every one; but his professions of service were never made but in the spirit of sincerity, nor without being followed by fulfilment. The enthusiasm with which he engaged in whatever could conduce to promote the fortunes or exalt the reputation of his friends, would have redeemed more numerous and less venial errors than those which entered into the composition of his character. His habits of life were a model of propriety to the gentleman and of elegance to the scholar. His piety was fervent without ostentation or austerity; and in his domestic relations he displayed a sensibility of feeling, and a constancy of affection struggling with ingratitude, that would have done honor to any character however ennobled by genius or by virtue.

It only remains for us to repeat our thanks to Mr. Mudford for the instruction and entertainment he has afforded us, and to recommend his volume to all who delight in critical speculation, to whom the literary history of the eighteenth century affords a subject of interesting enquiry, or who wish to add to their selection of literary anecdote.

STOCK JOBBING CLERKS.

Sir,

The examination of Ambrose Charles, by Mr. Garrow, on the late trial of Mr. Walsh, is probably within the recollection of all your commercial readers. On that occasion it appeared that although but a clerk in the Bank of England, his check for 20,000l. was paid into Walsh's bankers. The same person is principal adviser and acting broker to one of our present sheriffs. It would appear therefore that the following notices posted up in the Transfer offices and the Rotunda is merely exhibited to lull the people who frequent them into security, and without any intention of putting it in force.

"No clerk of the Bank of England is permitted to act as a broker or jobber in any of the public funds.

By order of the directors,

"T. Best, Secretary."

There is much more danger to be apprehended from the interference of the clerks in jobbing and brokerage transactions, than your readers might at first sight suspect they have access to the bank books, and of course have it in their power to inspect the accounts of every individual, and ascertain the value of their stock. This knowledge gives them a very unfair advantage in the market, and might possibly lead to the embezzlement in conjunction with confederates, of the unclaimed stock and dividends of others.

It is somewhat singular that the real or pretended disclosures of Mr. Charles respecting the stock transactions of Lord Moira, should never have become the regular subjects of public investigation. For some time we heard of nothing but vengeance against the unfortunate clerk, and indignant innocence on the part of his lordship; but the subject dropped without the punishment of the former: what its termination may have been with regard to the latter it is not for me or my brethren to conjecture.

A Citizen of London.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

Sir,

The old adage that charity begins at home, having at length been erased from the catalogue of English maxims, I beg leave to submit to your consideration the subjoined outline of a plan,* which promises to possess in a greater degree than any other which has been yet proposed, the necessary requisites of enormous expence, insurmountable difficulty, and decided inutility. To invent a scheme of charity that shall be easily executed, and productive in proportion to the sums expended in its prosecution, is within the power of common individuals; but to become the father of a project that possesses all the excellencies demanded by the benevolent and fashionable world, is a task beyond the powers of any man less versed in speculation than the individual who now addresses you. I have the honor, Sir, to be a member of the Missionary Society, a director to the Auxiliary Bible Society, one of the committee for Promoting Christianity in the East, and a coadjutor with the Rev. John Owen in many laudable undertakings. To elucidate the principles therefore, on which every successful project of benevolence is now conducted, you cannot but admit that I am qualified: and as in the multitude of your avocations, you may have been prevented from investigating this important subject, you will probably thank me for indulging at some length in its elucidation.

In the first place, Mr. Editor, in order to render a plan of benevolence acceptable to the public at large, or to the religious part of it in particular, it is absolutely necessary that it should be directed to the benefit of distant nations; to liberate our suffering fellow citizens from prison, or contribute to the relief of domestic distress, is unworthy the benevolence of men, whose philanthropy embraces the whole of created nature; who are as

* This plan does not appear to be original, or we should have inserted it. Ed.

much for a New Zealand savage as for a British artist struggling with adversity; who, excited by the noblest feelings of humanity, would rather subscribe to the spiritual necessities of a Laplander, than save an English beggar from perishing by hunger. To administer to the wants of the poor of our own country is a common, and vulgar practice: exalted minds own no distinction between their native soil and the dominions of a barbarian monarch, unless it be to the advantage of the latter. We are all brethren in the flesh; and why should one of our brethren be dearer than another?

2. No scheme of benevolence can be constructed on a *legitimate* plan, which does not sacrifice the most useful and attainable objects to those of which the benefit is problematical, and the success uncertain. Enterprize in a good cause is characteristic of genius and of virtue. In proportion to the degree of risk, is the energy by which any important object is conceived, and the intrepidity required to effect its execution. There is no merit in relieving virtue in distress by the benefaction of a five pound note, because this is a common duty, and easily performed. When an individual bestows his donation on a charitable institution for the circulation of religious books among the Hindoos, he is certain that he will never witness its effects, and doubtful whether it can ever be productive of substantial benefit. To the praise of magnanimity, therefore, and of a noble superiority to pecuniary considerations, he may justly advance his claim. Though thousands of our fellow Englishmen be immured in prison, and afflicted with disease and poverty; though our hospitals be crowded with the afflicted, and our alms-houses with the destitute; of what consequence is this to a fanatical philanthropist, whose nights are past in dreaming of the salvation of the Caffrees, and whose days are employed in shipping off new editions of the scriptures, that may by some miraculous event escape the dangers of the sea and the fury of the Bramins, to be admired for the beauty of their

characters, and serve to line the wicker boxes of the Hindoos? If many thousand pounds be expended in fruitless endeavours to convert the Hindoos to christianity, when a smaller sum would have diffused throughout our own country the means of present and of future happiness, who can deny to the subscribers, the praise of benevolence that stops not to consult with prudence, and enthusiasm, that leaves sight of its own country to visit on romantic wing the shores of Asia and the wilds of Africa?

3. But thirdly, no plan can be regarded as legitimate which does not testify the ardent attachment of its supporters to the established religion of their country. The filial piety of the members of the establishment is not testified at present by attendance on the sick, by friendly admonition to their less reverent parishioners, or by an unwearied and conscientious discharge of their duty as ministers. To attend a Bible society is more commendable than to visit the cottage of the poor; to harangue the committee of an institution that may possibly convert a heathen to christianity in less than twenty years, is thought more praiseworthy than to exert yourself honestly and effectually to excite the zeal and confirm the faith of those over whom you possess the authority of a pastor; and an incoherent speech from the chair, is a brighter testimony of your merits as a clergyman, than a sermon from the parish pulpit. If a reverend gentleman enters into the support of legitimate institutions with considerable warmth; if he leaves his parish to the guidance of a curate, and hastens to town to mingle in speculation and political controversy; if he writes letters to Lord Teignmouth when he ought to be expounding the catechism; he immediately becomes an elected champion of the church, and may look forward with certainty to a bishopric or a deanery.

4. From this it naturally results, that no benevolent institution is legitimate, that will not lead to a warm and extended controversy. Opposition excites attention to

the scheme, affords the projectors the wished-for opportunities of scriptural and oratorical displays, a plausible pretext for an appeal to the patriotism of the community, and the materials of strong and popular resolutions. The doctrines and principles that have been attacked in parliament may be defended from the pulpit: cruelty, injustice, persecution may be laid to the charge of the opposing party; and forbearance, intrepidity, christian charity, and compassion for infatuated infidelity, assumed by the legitimates.

Yours, truly,

CANTAB.

That many of the subscribers to the different societies for the promotion of christian knowledge and the circulation of the Bible are influenced by other motives than a regard for the interests of religion, or the welfare of mankind, it would be worse than affectation to deny; but that the majority of those who have chiefly distinguished themselves in their promotion and establishment are influenced by the noblest feelings of religion and benevolence we can assert from our personal knowledge of their characters. It is in the spirit of friendly remonstrance therefore, rather than of censure, that we would wish to recal them from the error of their ways. It appears to us that admitting the urgency of converting the Hindoos, or circulating the scriptures among the boors of Lapland and the savages of Russia, and supposing the possibility of executing these objects to an extent not utterly disproportionate to the exertion it demands, their prosecution is productive of evils more than counterbalancing any possible good that may arise from their success. The exertions of the Bible Society and of all similar institutions have an irresistible tendency to weaken the principles of practical benevolence, to dissipate in romantic and imposing schemes of extensive and universal charity, those feelings of sympathy in the sufferings and anxiety for the welfare of our fellow creatures,

that would otherwise be testified in the relief of domestic misery, and the alleviation of that distress which daily and hourly occurs to individual observation.

The clergy are at present acting on those very principles that they once so honorably and rationally opposed when proceeding from the school of Godwin: they lose sight of that practical good which is immediately before them, in the pursuit of distant and possible advantages: in their love for mankind, they forget what is due to themselves, and to the unfortunate members of that community of which they are the spiritual teachers. It would excite our laughter, if it did not awaken our indignation, to observe that among the liberal subscribers to the Foreign Bible society, there are to be found more than one of those very clergymen of the diocese of Durham, who lately solicited the contributions of the public towards the education of the orphans of their deceased brethren, and who thought proper to reply to the spirited attacks of Mr. Burdon, by asserting their incompetence to support the charity without the public assistance. It is surely the duty of these gentlemen, and of many others whose conduct is marked by similar inconsistency, to look at their own parishes, and examine the state of their own funds, before they yield to the energy of enthusiasm for the spiritual welfare of the Hindoos: the clergyman who cannot spare his guinea, may fulfil the purposes of benevolence by the devotion of his time; and it would be more creditable to the profession, as a body, if the sons of the clergy were to be supported by their own contributions and exertions than by the benevolence of the christian laity. As the fact stands, however, the clergy combine to diffuse instruction among the Laplanders, and leave their own poor to be supported and educated by the bounty of the public.

Were we to estimate the intellectual character of the age by the principles upon which its exertions for the circulation of the scriptures professedly proceed, it would be natural to suppose that the English nation had reverted to its original ignorance, that any sophistry however fallacious was acceptable to the public mind,

when its apparent tendency was to promote the interests of the clergy, and that the excellence of charity was not supposed to depend on the objects to which it was directed, or the means by which it was carried into effect, but exclusively on the enthusiasm of its promoters. That to circulate the Old and New Testament is to diffuse the knowledge of christianity, is the fundamental proposition on which all societies for the distribution of the scriptures necessarily rest their claims to public encouragement. Yet nothing but the blindness of frantic zeal could prevent them from discovering its absurdity. The Bible only contributes to the instruction and edification of mankind, when the reader is prepared for its examination by previous acquaintance with the authority from which it is derived and the purposes for which it was given to mankind, and directed to its most important doctrines and most useful precepts. To put the Bible into the hands of a savage is to make him a present of which he knows not the origin, abounding apparently in contradictory statements; containing innumerable allusions, histories, and discussions, which without other knowledge he cannot understand. His imagination will naturally be captivated by those portions of scripture that are the most marvellous in narration, and the most striking in effect: the exhortations of our Saviour will excite no interest compared with the death of Sampson, and the appearance of the spirit of Samuel; what is useful will awaken no enthusiasm, and the abstruse will be neglected for that which is entertaining. But if the Bible be accompanied by a preliminary address, stating that the scriptures are the gift of God, that our Saviour was born in the reign of Augustus, and other facts of equal importance, the necessity of auxiliary aids is at once admitted; and no Bible society should be established unless its funds are adequate not only to the circulation of explanatory books, but to the support and establishment of spiritual instructors. Were the directors of the present institutions however to confine their exertions to those parts of the world where the objects of their boun-

ty have received the benefits of a christian education, and where the materials of instruction alone are wanted, their efforts would not be applicable to the censure that we have applied to their actual conduct; and could only be objected to on the general principle, that they should do what they are able at home, before they direct their exertions abroad. Let them remember that the individuals whose exertions chiefly contributed to any object that might justly have been regarded as paramount to every other the abolition of the slave trade, did not devote themselves to the emancipation of the suffering Africans till they had first fulfilled their duty to their neighbours; and that in the prosecution of their mighty undertaking they were never seduced to the neglect of those humble virtues that distinguish the genuine christian from the ostentatious philanthropist.

COUNTERPART TO THE WARM CHILD.

Our readers will recollect we had to notice a few months back, the ill luck which befel a Nottinghamshire divine, in not being able after *seven* different summonses to perform the ceremony of baptism upon a child *while it was alive,* though the distance was not two hundred yards from his own door. We did not apply the *thong* on that occasion, hoping a gentle hint would have been sufficient. Contrary to expectation, however, it appears that a parishioner of his in the country being in the very last stage of mortality, wished for his consolatory attendance on the Sunday after the usual duty of the day had closed. The wish was imparted to him—No—he could not possibly stop then—had urgent business—to-morrow—to-morrow he would come on purpose.—To-morrow came—and with it also came the parson—he alighted, went into the house, and exclaimed—I am come at last.—*Come!* says the house-keeper in a tone and manner too emphatic to be misconceived; "Why—surely—I hope—dear me—I hope you don't blame me?" "Not blame you! ifeckins but I do," says the woman. "Well but—well but—can't I just

peep at him—perhaps—perhaps—" "None of your perhapsing here," says Margery; "I tell you he has been stiff and cold these seven hours, and you should not play any of your fool's tricks with him, poor soul, even if he *were warm*."

A Nottinghamshire Magistrate.

THE APHRODISIAN SOCIETY,

COUNCIL-ROOM.

Sir,

The opening speech at the beginning of the present session has excited considerable attention among the admirers of the lovely marchioness. So neat and appropriate an oration has not been delivered within the memory of woman. In eloquence it surpasses the speech of the regent's commissioners, and its adaptation to the present crisis of affairs is the subject of general admiration. Since my last report several interesting questions have become the subject of debate; but as it is my purpose to contribute to your entertainment rather than to weary you by a full detail of proceedings, I have contented myself by transmitting you the opening speech, and the substance of last night's debate.

Jan. 1st, 1812.

SPEECH OF THE PRIORESS OF ——, *ci-devant* PRINCESS OF P——.*

The abbess has directed me to signify to you the satisfaction with which she has observed that the exertions that have been made to extend the empire of adultery, have proved completely effectual; and that on several occasions in which the few remaining adherents of virtue and modesty have continued to oppose her progress, the reputation already acquired by yourselves and your companions, has been gloriously maintained.

The successful and brilliant enterprise which terminated in the conveyance of Lady A. to the habitation of

* See the opening speech of the present session of Parliament.

her paramour, is highly creditable to the exalted female under whose guidance it was conducted, and has contributed materially to obstruct the designs of those enemies to conjugal independence, whose operations had so lately excited apprehension and alarm.

The princess is assured that while you reflect with pride and satisfaction on the conduct of our fair coadjutors, and of our fashionable allies in these various and important services, you will render justice to the consummate skill displayed by the Duke of ——— at the opening of the campaign: not only has he conduced in a considerable degree to the defeat and discomfiture of the infatuated individuals who had sought for immediate safety under the banners of virtue and decency: but he has likewise contributed to the erection of an impenetrable barrier against the future introduction of those once formidable enemies into the immediate vicinity of our residence, and has laid the foundations of a general system of morals and religion, that may equally conduce to the universal emancipation of mankind, to the legitimate triumph of female freedom, and the firm and undisputed pre-eminence of adultery.

The princess trusts that you will concur with her in her anxiety for the establishment of her sister Licentiousness; she confides in your known attachment to her person, for the suggestion of such means as may contribute to her future splendour; and for the provision of such resources as may be sufficient to support the dignity of her crown, and the stability of her empire.

The princess has ordered the estimates of the current year to be laid before you. She confides in her faithful subjects for the grant of the requisite supplies, convinced that they must feel how much depends on the copiousness of her treasury, and the punctual fulfilment of her financial engagements. Great as have been the expences of legal contention, and enormous as have been the late demands on the compromising fund, she perceived with satisfaction that her calls on the fortunes of her subjects rather tended to stimulate them to more ardent

and enthusiastic efforts in her service than to restrain their ardor or dispirit their enthusiasm.

The princess is fully satisfied that under whatever calamities her loving subjects may be doomed to exercise their fortitude, or to whatever privations they may be subjected by the chances and vicissitudes of war, they will on all occasions be ready to contribute to the support of their Irish allies, and always willing to remunerate their services. She feels herself the more confirmed in this from observing that the most distinguished of her beloved votaries have always been the warm advocates of Catholic emancipation from the tyranny of husbands, and the uniform friends of extreme unction and auricular confession.

Outlines of a Debate on a Motion of Lady H—— H——, that Females above the age of seventy-five years be hereafter declared incapable of election as Members of the Aphrodisian Society.

Her grace of ———— rose. She hoped that in rising to support the motion of her honorable friend, whatever might be refused on the score of incapacity, would be granted to experience. She had made the laws of intrigue the study of her life, and presumed to suppose that in their practical application, there were few whose exertions had been more unremitted or conspicuous. She could not but look back with a mingled feeling of sorrow and delight, to the period when her studies were guided by the experience of a Grosvenor, and her enquiries into the nature of man assisted by the practical sagacity of a Kennedy. She could not pretend to so long or so patient an investigation of abstract points, as some of the ladies who might feel disposed to continue the debate; but of things in general, she ventured to assert that not a single member of that honourable room could boast of a more perfect or more accurate acquaintance. To the privileges of woman, she had always been a decided friend: without the enjoyment of personal liberty existence was nothing better than a blank; it would be more desirable that the female

part of the world should not exist at all, than be restrained by the tyranny of man from exerting their corporeal as well as their mental faculties to their utmost extent of action: slavery was more insupportable than death; and for her part, she would rather relinquish the name of woman, than consent to a paltry compromise of privileges which nature had bestowed, and nothing but the hand of death should take away.

It had indeed been objected to her as a member of the coterie, that she had already advanced to a period of life, when the activity of bodily exertion might appear in some degree disproportionate to her powers, when she might be expected to retire from the gaze of public admiration, and resign the hopes and fears, the gaieties and the sorrows of the amorous world, to younger and more blooming rivals. But she felt that it would be dishonourable to herself, and unjust to those individuals of an opposite sex, who had hitherto experienced the steady guidance of her friendly hand, and who reposed in unsuspecting confidence upon her, to withdraw herself at the present crisis from the service of the public. She confidently hoped that in that assembly no one could be found who would merely suffer the period of female exertion to be limited by the tyranny of man, or who would not fulfil the duties of her sex, so long as the vital spark gave animation to the frame, and the warmth of honest feeling circulated through the veins. No one in that assembly she was convinced had a more intimate acquaintance with mankind in general; and more perfectly ascertained how far on common occasions they were inclined to go; how great was the eagerness of the opposite sex to enter into the private affairs of unfortunate woman; how much they were inclined to lay upon them the most odious burthens. The lady who had just sat down, had very poetically assured the room that the couch of conjugal love was a bed of roses: for her part, she had been accustomed to beds of *down*, and *pah! tricks* had been played by her companions on camp

beds within her recollection, but the couch of wedlock was rather a bed of thorns than a bed of roses; and it was only from the free and flowing wings of Cupid that she wished to pluck the materials of a bed of feathers. Old age stood in need of comfort and indulgence, rather than demanded those restraints which may be politically imposed on the young and inexperienced practisers of intrigue. Here her ladyship recapitulated the history of antiquated love, from the days of Semiramis to those of Ninon D'Enclos. She descanted with considerable warmth on the pertness and precocity of the present generation of female striplings; not indeed that she objected to any practices that might conduce to the extension of female freedom, but she felt it her duty strongly to object to a monopoly. She flattered herself that she had been able to *betstow* as much happiness in the young noviciates of the present day, as could be derived from communication with any of those youthful rivals who had attempted to appreciate her pretensions. She was certain that in selecting her as the object of his sarcasm, the Editor of the Scourge was in a great measure unacquainted with the extent of her capacity, or the warmth of her benevolence. She suspected that on these occasions he was apt to draw a long bow, and was convinced that had he felt the secret movements of her soul, his gratitude and his gallantry, would equally have precluded him from indulging in severities, that must necessarily compel her to deny him entrance to her premises; and she could not but observe, that the mention of herself might be a future bar to his own accommodation."

Here Lady A. arose and exclaimed I know not what the lady may mean by her allusion to female striplings, but this I know, and this I will assert, that little as I am, I have a soul as superior to vulgar restraints as that lady herself, or any other member of this room, whatever may be the magnitude of her personal dimensions. It would ill become a female descendant of the house of ——— to shrink from competition with any female in the warfare of intrigue. My years are

few, but my progress has been rapid; my stature is diminutive, but pigmy as I am, never have I seen nor ever do I expect to see the man, in whose presence I should be afraid! Under the auspices of my beloved mother, I studied the arts of intrigue, and with the sanction of my husband I have reduced them to practice. Let not the dowager of 70, therefore despise the bride of 23! let her follow her accustomed pursuits with the dignity that becomes her age and station, suffer me to proceed in her steps as fast as time and circumstances will permit. The question itself is in my opinion a very stupid one. It is worse than folly to debate on subjects that no one of our time conceives to be deserving of a moment's notice.

> " Love free as air at sight of human ties,
> Spreads his light wings, and in a moment flies."

Who now a day marries for love, or talks of fidelity as a virtue? Let every fashionable pair, regulate their lives by the principles that regulate myself and my husband, and farewell to jealousy, and all the miseries of marriage. His companions endeavour to obtain my favor, and can I do less than express my gratitude, by introducing him into the circle of my female friends? He is enraptured by the humble beauties of my female attendants, and I retain in return the privilege of trifling with his steward. When a damsel is sent to wait on my person, he is seated in my boudoir, and signifies by signs his approval or dissent. When he has occasion for a coachman, he consults my taste. Life glides away in all the felicity of reciprocal obligation; he is grateful for my services, I forget and forgive his infidelity."

The speech of Mrs. ——— was peculiarly effective. Ladies, (she exclaimed) it be all wrong. I do protest that it grates upon my feelings like the string of an untuned harpsichord. I hate people to be strumming on one instrument. I do love variety of pieces. I am quite willing to swear that it is the direst nonsense, no better

than tweedle-dum-dee! a fiddlestick for the virtue. A very bad player. I care for not any body. My money is in all the funds, and no duchesses will have so much in a year, as I do use to have from that *Daily.* Mr. —— has got some French-horns. Softly sweet in Lydian measure. So my lady, the speakers all have crotchets, that is flat!

HISTORY OF THE ASPLAND HEIRESS.

CHAPTER I.

THE house of Aspland had been for many ages distinguished above the other families of Europe for the bravery of its sons and the beauty and the virtue of its daughters. From the paltry vassal of a feudal tyrant, the first of the lords of Aspland rose by his own merits to precedence above every courtly rival, and from the lowest extremity of indigence, he succeeded in the acquisition of treasures more extensive than those which enriched the coffers of his sovereign. The bravery of his descendants extended the possessions he obtained, and the charms and accomplishments of the female branches of his family, secured by the ties of nuptial alliance whatever accessions of honor or of wealth might be the reward of hereditary valour. The last of the lords of Aspland succeeded, therefore, to his father's dignity undisturbed by competition, in the full and quiet possession of arbitrary power and exhaustless wealth: proud in the contemplation of his own security, and looking forward with the ardor of ambition to the extension of his own domains by incroachment on the possessions of his neighbours. For many years, however, he was doomed to repose in fretful inactivity: the nobles who surrounded him exhausted by former dissensions, and remembering with feelings of sorrow and humiliation the

consequences of mutual variance, evaded every pretext of quarrel, and listened to his martial exhortations with sentiments of compassionate indifference.

At length the vassals of a neighbouring lord grated by the remembrance of wrongs inflicted on their ancestors, awakened to a sense of their rights as men, and emboldened by the easy and timid character of their master, arose as with one spontaneous impulse, demolished the prisons in which so many of their ancestors had expired, imprisoned their lord himself, and proclaimed the laws of subordination and the dependance of man on man, to be the productions of folly and the instruments of despotism.

The neighbouring lords alarmed at the progress of principles so dangerous to their own authority, and despising the undisciplined rabble who had thus torn from rank its splendor and from justice its insignia, marched forth at the head of their vassals to chastise the insurgents. The lord of Aspland was selected as the leader of their forces, and scarcely had he arrived at the borders of Lord Francis's domains before he published a proclamation denouncing the severest punishment on his rebellious retainers, unless they immediately returned to their allegiance; proclaiming vengeance against any of his vassals who should treat him with injury or insult, and assuring them that severity or kindness should be displayed by the bands who advanced to reduce his vassals to their former subservience, in proportion as they treated their unfortunate master with reverence or contumely. Irritated by so insulting a declaration, apparently inconsistent not only with their own declarations of independence, but with the common rights of mankind, all their enthusiasm was now directed to the expulsion of the hosts of their invaders: excited at once by the frenzy of revolutionary ardor and by the desperation natural to ignorance operated upon by fear, they sallied out from the palace that had been so lately the scene of their atrocities, and laying aside the badges of servitude for the weapons of the soldier, not only repelled

their enemies from the boundary of their lord's domains, but carried a fierce and destructive warfare into the possessions of their enemies.

Immediately opposite to the main land, on which was erected the family seat of the house of Aspland, stood the paternal inheritance of a good old gentleman, whose ancestors had been unanimously invited by the owners of the land to live over them as guardians and protectors. This old gentleman was not like the lords of the main land, absolute master of the lives and properties of his tenants; but received a reasonable allowance from the produce of their labours for his care in watching over the general welfare, and his administration of equal justice between the rich and the poor, the haughty and the humble, among his tenants. He was blest with a large family, and his eldest son was now arrived at a time of life, when nuptial connection was likely to be productive of benefit to the family, and of happiness to himself. In a meeting, however, that was annually held between the old nobleman and his tenants, for the management of general affairs, and for promoting the good of the estate, it had been agreed that as the marriage of his lordship's offspring with the daughters of his tenants might be the occasion of much mischief and confusion, by elevating the tenants to an undue influence over their master, or by causing improper connection between the young noblemen, and the daughters of the yeomanry, no marriage should be contracted by them unless with the daughters of the nobility, whose estates laid along the shore; or stretched into the interior of the main land. This agreement, however plausible as it might seem in theory, had already been productive of many pernicious effects. Unable to marry the objects of their affections, the young lords either seduced, and then deserted them, or took them to their continued protection, and burthened the country with an illegitimate offspring. The morals of the tenantry were soon corrupted by their example, and have been in a progressive

state of degeneration, since the promulgation of the compact.

The eldest son however of Lord G—— had involved himself in a debt beyond the prospect of extrication; when it occurred to his father's steward, that by the prospect of their liquidation, he might be induced to amend his manners, and consent to the formation of a matrimonial engagement. The proposal was made and accepted. The heiress of the house of Aspland was chosen as the partner of his bed; the steward was a man of great talents, and uncontrollable influence at the castle of W. He had persuaded his master to take an active part in the quarrel between the combined lords and the vassals of Lord Francis; he had witnessed with gratitude the zeal and bravery of the Lord of Aspland, though he regretted his discomfiture; and he thought that by the projected alliance he should give new life to the energies of the allied combatants, and reward the services of their most active leader.

One of his lordship's chaplains, therefore, was chosen as the messenger of the heir's proposals, which were received with joy by her father, and with acclamation by his vassals. But the heiress of Aspland felt no emotion but the anguish of despair. An Irish gentleman, a visitor at her father's palace, had long been the possessor of her affections: her father forbade the continuance of their intercourse, and her paramour was exiled from the domains of Aspland. But no terrors of human authority will dismay the courage or restrain the enterprize of love. Though her father had entrusted her to the care of an old and vigilant duenna, though her attendants were threatened with the severest visitations of his displeasure, should they be seduced by negligence or interest to the surrender of their trust, and though the appearance of B—— himself subjected him to the vengeance of a man whose personal intrepidity was only equalled by his insensibility to all the softer emotions of the heart, yet in the dead of night he found his way to the chamber of his

mistress, persuaded her to assume the disguise of a page, and to fly on the wings of love and hope beyond the verge and the power of her father. Afraid of discovery, and conscious that their appearance on the highways would lead to immediate detection, they sought their course over desolate moors, and through almost pathless forests, till they had arrived within a few miles of the estate of a nobleman to whom B—— had long been endeared by his virtues, and whose favor he had secured by his various services. They had retired for repose beneath a woodmans shelter on the verge of the forest, when the emissaries of the lord of Aspland stole upon their slumbers, and regardless of the shrieks of the female and the bribes of her protector, bore them to the separate vehicles provided for their conveyance. Surrounded by guards, they were escorted to the palace of Aspland: on their return, the lover effected his escape. Between the period at which the messengers were dispatched and that of their return, the chaplain from the lord of the island had received his credentials: to silence the rumours of his vassals the princess appeared in the balcony of his palace, the chaplain was amused by tales of indisposition, even the officers of the castle believed the relation of the late adventure of the heiress of the house of Aspland to be the invention of calumny, or the offspring of romantic volubility.

The chaplain was a man of exemplary rectitude and of the most acute discrimination; his austerity of manners at once overawed and repelled the female into whose hands he had been commissioned to deliver his credentials; she repaid his apparent hauteur and incivility, by a cold and formal reception of his compliments; and though the chaplain remained in ignorance of her previous attachment, he transmitted to his friends a description of her person, that without forsaking every outline of resemblance, was at once the theme of disgust and ridicule to the ladies of their *island.* Among these the mistress of the heir and her antiquated friend,

a female capable of any wickedness, and versed in every description of intrigue, were delighted by the chaplain's information; and resolved to convert it to the furtherance of their respective purposes. The titled matron obtained permission to proceed to the domains of Lord ——, for the purpose of attending the destined bride in the barge prepared for her for passage across the waters. She knew that she had to practice her arts on frankness, thoughtlessness and inexperience. Caroline though still impressed with the memory of B.——deserved every praise but that which is due to sexual purity. The commander of the barge was a personable man; the matron was skilful in the erection of opportunities; and the son of Neptune was said to have succeeded to the honors of the soldier. The matron concealed her discoveries, and patiently awaited till the time should arrive when the disclosure might be productive of benefit to the discarded mistress.

With what pomp the marriage ceremony was performed, or how loud and sincere were the testimonies of joy that resounded from every part of the domains of Aspland, the aged remember and the young have heard. The matron still continued her assiduous attendance on the bride; and under the pretext of exhibiting her to her destined husband in the most attractive form of insular beauty, she arrayed her person in all the display of studied deformity.

DOGGREL ATTACKS ON THE REGENT.

Sir,

Among the other absurdities which the present state of the law of libel involves, it is not the least remarkable that while beneath its sanction, the most trivial offences may be punished with severity, the most gross and infamous abuse of the liberty of the press may be committed

without any fear of legal retribution. As the various statutes on this subject are now constructed, an individual may be imprisoned three years for a theoretical declamation on the subject of military flogging, while he may insult his sovereign and vilify the most exalted characters with impunity. If ever these observations required any proof of their correctness, they would be afforded by the undisturbed circulation of the infamous libels that under the titles of The Royal Sprain, the Three Royal Bloods, the Ghost of the Royal Stripes, &c. have lately obtained an extensive circulation among the lower orders of the people. To represent the prince as a coward and an adulterer; to persuade the subjects of his father that the court at Carlton-house is the receptacle of the vilest profligacy and the most disgusting indecorum; to extend the impression that every branch of the family is alike destitute of prudence and of virtue, is not only the evident design but the inevitable tendency of these compositions. They do not affect the language of remonstrance, they are not addressed to the intelligence of their readers, nor do they censure the conduct of the exalted persons whom they attack with that discriminative satire which admonishes without insult, and corrects without degrading: they forget even the courtesies of expression, and detail the supposed conduct of the Prince in terms as gross and vulgar and impertinent as if they sung the exploits of a Johnny Gilpin. But their effect is not to be measured by the degree of excellence they exhibit: they have a powerful influence on the lower classes; they render the names of our princes first familiar and then contemptible; they teach the peasant and the artizan to regard a court as a temple of debauchery, and the chief magistrate of the country as a drunken profligate, who passes his time in the violation of every moral duty; regardless of decency and destitute of shame.

The rapacity of booksellers and the necessities of the manufacturers of doggrel have no limits, and they have

conspired therefore to invent for the edification of the peopleof England, an account of a pretended amour of the P——e Regent's, with L—— Y——; of the discovery of the parties in *flagrante delictu*, by his lordship, and of what they elegantly call a *milling match*, which terminated in the infliction of two *black eyes* on the heir apparent. The ignorance of these miserable scribblers, respecting the present situation of the Yarmouth family, is so deplorable as almost to surpass belief, and absorb anger in compassion. But the falsehood of their tales is beyond the reach of detection by those for whom their productions are intended; that they should be told *in print*, is sufficient to attract their curiosity; and the mischief of these works does not so directly proceed from the story itself, infamous and degrading as it must be considered, as from the language in which it is detailed, and the allusions by which it is accompanied.

The first, and decidedly the least disgusting of these productions, is entitled The Royal Sprain. How well it is calculated to accomplish the purposes I have described will appear from the subjoined extract.

> The Goddess wrapp'd the lovers in a cloud,
> And gently drew them from the pressing crowd,
> To rooms where mirth and noise dar'd not intrude,
> Sacred to solitude,
> Well suited for voluptuous joy—
> Paintings that would a Stoic warm,
> Where beauty stretched her naked form,
> And wantoned with the archer boy,
> Lighted anew the breast's impetuous fires,
> And gave new fuel to unquench'd desires.

The poet then tells us that there is a dame yclept Suspicion; and that,

> This lynx-eyed demon had possessed
> Poor Yarmouth's lordly breast;

He marked the progress of the cloud,
By all besides unseen,
And slow and sullen left the brilliant crowd,—
For well he knew the Cyprian queen ;
And as the goddess to the skies withdrew
While the warm lovers nothing coy,
Indulged in every wanton joy,
Indignant Yarmouth started to their view :
Not greater horror mark'd sad Jordan's face,
When rumour told her that her prince was base;
Not greater pangs the duke's round phiz distorted,
When all his schemes on wealthy *Long* were thwarted ;
Not greater dread the murderer's breast can tell,
Who sees the rough chalked gibbet in his cell,
Than that which chill'd young Cæsar's ramping blood,
When his much injured *friend* beside him stood.
Yarmouth had lately gained much fame,
Where Jackson daily holds levee,
And champion Crib, illustrious name,
Plucks the ripe fruit from honor's tree.
Where pugilistic science deigns to sit,
Teaching young sprigs of greatness how to hit.
Forgive your prince, affrighted Cæsar cries,
And dropt upon his knee,
With such becoming sweet humility,
Well tim'd to check fierce indignation's flow,
And turn a less relentless foe.
Up! up! says Yarmouth, scurvy poacher,
Mean, chicken-hearted, sly encroacher !
Who under cloak of royalty
Thus with protected game makes free!
Give me redress —— d——your eyes !
Whether the Paphian goddess was afraid
To meet the injured Peer's reproof,
Or at the key was picking up a shilling,
She kept her lovely form aloof,

While the sad cause of all this sad transaction,
Swiftly retreated from the scene of action,
And Jove the second *gain'd* (!) a decent *milling*.

The whole of this story it must be confessed is unusually edifying; but the description of Lord Y.'s supposed pursuits, and the preceding ascription of ardent friendship for such a man, to the prince, must have a pretty tendency to exalt the latter in the estimation of the people.

In one part of the work we are told with *a sneer*

Of princesses, queens, and such like sacred things,
Names which the vulgar greatly should regard.

The aforesaid Humphrey Hedge-hog is certainly the most decent animal of the three; yet though his quills have been shot at fashionable life, he evidently knows not the distinction between a *rout* and a suite of rooms.

Young Cæsar (meaning your royal self no doubt,)
Was pleased most kindly to attend a rout,
A sort of fashionable court,
To which nobility resort,
A *place* which painted belles and titled wantons use,
Not much unlike the vulgar stews.
Yes! Yes! these routs are most convenient *places*,
Teeming with rich varieties of faces.

The *Royal Bloods* presents us at the outset with a specimen of pastoral poetry.

'Twas in the blooming season of the spring,
When birds began to ply the busy wing,
The shrill-ton'd lark up rose and loudly sung,
As scarcely visible, he fluttering hung.
The ploughman now began his daily toil,
And travelled slowly o'er the rugged soil,
Forth fondly musing on her sweetheart's vows,
The rosy milkmaid seeks her lazy cows,

And carrols out the song he loves to hear,
When work is past, and evening skies appear;
When at her parents' humble cottage door
He tells the tale he oft has told before.

We are now introduced into the bed-chamber of the Duke of York, and entertained with a soliloquy, in which he pronounces his brothers to be fools and blockheads.

Plain as a tradesman was his highness drest,
Not e'en the glittering star upon his breast;
The regimental clothes, his greatest pride,
Had from *necessity* been laid aside;
Necessity which cost the warrior dear,
And changed his drink from claret to small beer,
Reduced his equipage from twelve to six,
And *played up* sundry other curious tricks.

He now pays a visit to the *Premier*, who advises him to oppose the restrictions, and thus regain the favour of the Prince.

In page 15, the opposition are represented as asking the Prince Regent not for places and pensions, but for the necessaries of life.

Out at the elbows are our patriot suits,
And much in want are we of shoes and boots;
Worn are our breeches too to rags and tatters,
That now they scarcely hide our private matters.
Much do we wish our stock of shirts t'increase,
Having amongst us scarcely one a piece;
We therefore beg your highness will arrange
That we your servants may receive a change.

The story now begins. The Prince is seen on his journey to Oatlands, in company with *feather-bed* M. M. who is converted into the medium of a puff to one of the author's former libels.

And much ability did M. discover,
In stabbing that new piece the R——l L——r;

A work, quoth he, no more like Pindar's writing,
Than volunteer reviews resemble fighting.

Dinner is announced, and among the party are L—— Y—— and his lady! The author of the Royal Bloods ventures in this part of his work to contend with the immortal writer of the Royal Sprain. But who shall decide between these sons of genius?

Amongst the ladies who at O——ds dined,
Was one whose person far excelled her mind;
Fair as a lily was she to the view,
And like a rose-bud tipt with morning dew.
Upon the female, thoughtless, gay and young,
The P——'s eyes with studied fondness hung;
The lady though a married one too plain,
Returned the R——t's amorous looks again.

The next stanza represents his R. H. as willing to sacrifice every law of honor, friendship and hospitality to the gratification of his passions.

His highness saw whilst making his advances,
By the soft intercourse of wishful glances,
'Twould not be difficult to *gain his ends*,
If he could blind the husband and his friends.
At length an opportunity is found,
Whilst mirth among the company goes round;
By stealth the lady and the Prince withdrew,
A step which both have special cause to rue.
Unnoticed Y———— every motion eyes,
Whilst in his breast the furious passions rise;
At distance follows to a private place,
Which proves the public scene of sad disgrace.
Scarce had the P——, our virtuous R——t, prest
The trembling female to his R——l breast,
When with a sudden crash the fastenings flew,
The door bursts open, Y—— stands in view.

To these stanzas succeeds a new version of the mil-

ling match, which rivals that of his predecessors in truth and eloquence. The brothers are sent for, and after due consultation,

> The plan's approved, and ushered to the papers,
> That G———'s pain proceeds from cutting capers;
> And now the R——t and his *love-sick* brother,
> With kindness strive to comfort one another.
> G——e listens to his brother's mournful tale,
> And feels his pity and his love prevail;
> Cl——e weeps over G——'s late defeat.
> And G—— makes Cl—— Admiral of the F——t.

The last of these productions is entitled "The Ghost of the Royal Stripes, which was prematurely stifled in its birth in January 1812. By Jeremiah Juvenal." It is asserted by the friends of the bookseller, that a confidential friend of the exalted personage intended to be ridiculed, not only bought up the whole impression of the original work, but paid one hundred pounds for its suppression. The story is in every respect incredible, but the circulation of such tales is of some benefit to the vampers of catch-penny pamphlets, and may obtain for the rhymes of Mr. Juvenal a profitable circulation among the "cits of London and the boors of Middlesex."

Jeremiah Juvenal, Esquire, is resolved to imitate the example of his ancient name-sake, and to indulge in the description of wickedness, with a gust proportioned to its enormity. Not content with representing the R——t as a drunkard and an adulterer, he depicts him as a ravisher.

> The tables groan'd beneath the weight
> Of costly food, and costlier plate;
> And hungry lords and ladies seated
> With ready zest the dainties greeted:

En passant, that the lords and ladies did not stand dur-

ing their meal is an important and curious *item* of information.

At length the hour of bliss drew nigh,
The hour of mirth and jollity;
The glittering groups in pairs advance,
Eager to twine the mazy dance.
Apart the Prince surveyed the fun,
And quizzed the beauties one by one,;
But fairest of the dazzling fair
Yarmouth's young dame still triumphed there.

In this part of the composition a confidential friend of the prince, a gentleman of high honor and accomplished manners, is introduced in the respectable character of a p——p.

Now *Mac*, dear *Mac*, the Regent cried,
Go lead my willing prize aside,
That we may give a loose to pleasure,
And beat quick time to love's soft measure.
Mac sought the fair and led her strait,
To rooms of solitary state,
Where not a sound disturbed the scene,
But all was silent and serene.
Soft and sly G——e slunk away
Homage at Cupid's throne to pay.
Careless of honour, mirth and fame,
Thoughtful alone of Yarmouth's dame.
The dame afraid how she should fare,
Had scarcely closed her secret prayer,
When G—— rushed in, by love inspir'd,
And *Mac* with modest bow retired.

After a long game at cross purposes, the P—— exclaims,

Two ways appear, fair lady chuse,
One you must take, or one refuse;

Be kind and speedy in your choice,
Your fate depends upon your voice.
I ask that love my hopes to bless,
Which I by force may soon possess;
Chuse then to give what I require,
Or strength shall second my desire.
The lady then astonished stood,
Regardless of the Royal Blood,
And said "for ever I shall scorn
On Y———h's brow to plant a horn."
"Then thus," at length the Regent cries,
"Thus will I seize my valued prize,"
He said, and in his pr——ly arms
He locked the dame and all her charms.
But careless of his rank and grace,
The lady scratched his royal face.
While thus the war of words ran high,
And anger flashed from every eye;
Sudden the door wide open flew,
And Y——h stood confessed to view.
The peer's indignant feelings rose,
And words were soon exchanged for blows,
No rebel eloquence he tries,
But boldly blacks the gallant's eyes.
Enraged the lover met his *doom*,
From Y——h's cane, unfriendly boon,
Till his bruis'd H——s, faint and sore,
Stretched his fine form on the floor.

Of Mr. Juvenal's scholarship let the reader judge from the following specimens:

Thy simple worth, dear *Mac*, alone
Outways the value of a throne.

In vain the P—— *assay'd* to eat;
His stomach loath'd the unsavoury meat.

On the whole this attempt at satire of Mr. Jeremiah Juvenal, is a very *Agg*-ravated *Agg*-ression on public decency.

Sir Robert Walpole was accustomed to say, "Give me the exclusive privilege of writing ballads for the people,

and I care not who are their ministers.'' Pamphlets like the Royal Sprain and its successors, of which the purpose is to degrade the great, and vilify the good, afford abundant gratification to the discontented, who anticipate a change in the present order of things; to the envious, who would wish to see the great and the noble reduced to the same level with themselves, and to the wicked, whose convenience it may suit to divert the indignation of the world from their own vices, by directing it to the indiscretion of their superiors. That very absence of every poetical excellence which renders them so contemptible in the eyes of the educated classes recommends them to the vulgar, who are better pleased with the mere jingle of the rhyme, and the plain expression of scandalous assertions, than by all the embellishments of poetical fancy and classical allusion. That productions like these should be counteracted by other means than the terrors of legal vengeance, must be the wish of every rational patriot; but it is still more to be desired that the forbearance of the crown lawyers may be consistent, and that while they overlook the ribaldry of a deliberate libeller, they will not persecute the warmth of hasty but honest independence.

JUSTUS.

THE WIDOW FAIRBUR, OR, DISCOVERY UPON DISCOVERY.

SIR,

SINCE the far-famed exhibition of Mr. Coates, the whole town has been occupied in enquiries respecting the widow Fairbur. Mr. Coates himself is too disinterestedly benevolent to know any thing about the fair object of his charitable exertions: westward of Temple-bar no such lady has been seen, and it is certain that the receipts o the ever-memorable night were not expended in the city. The name of an unfortunate widow, who for any thing I knew might be both young and beautiful, and

willing, called every feeling of gallantry into action in the bosom of your humble servant—I first sought her, therefore, at the boarding-schools, and proceeded regularly from the genteel seminary at Blackheath, to the polite academy at Putney; in this line of pursuit, however, my search was fruitless, and I then bethought me of the alms houses for clergymen's widows, but after having wearied myself and alarmed the sisterhood from one end of the town to the other, I received in return for my labours a most desperate flagellation from a young sprig of clerical whippism, who told me that poverty ought to be a protection from insult, and that my curiosity would be best rewarded by a visit to King's place, I took the hint, but even there they knew not where the widow Fairbur was to be found: a wag informed me that she was an *old woman*, and might be found among the magistrates; I went to Bow-street, and while listening to the examination of an unfortunate culprit, was equally astonished and delighted by hearing a person next me whisper to his friend, " there is the widow Fairbur." Breathless with " delighted impatience," I turned me round; but conceive my astonishment and mortification, when in the person of my wanton and buxom widow, I beheld a being drest in male attire, of a dark and malignant countenance, in the dress of a dirty fop, and with the manners of a pick pocket. Pray, said I, can you inform me what is the profession of that lady, or why she assumes the features (for I supposed them to be artificial) of a man. " As for the motives of the fair widow," he replied, " there is no disguise that she will not assume for a few shillings; and with regard to her history you may satisfy your curiosity by calling at the Three Tuns in —— street, where she is the member of a literary society, and recites her productions every alternate evening to an assemblage of fashionable and literary characters."

On making the requisite enquiries, Mr. Editor, I found that the assemblage of fashionable and literary characters consists of a barber, a bricklayer, and the widow Fairbur. She is a constant attendant at the theatre, manufactures

theatrical critiques for a morning newspaper, and recite them after they are composed for the edification of her pair of auditors. She is very fond of introducing her children, by a lady named Thespis, to the attention of her social circle, (if circle that can be called which lies between two points,) and is sometimes so infatuated as to introduce their Pin-basket for the general amusement. Her first brats, though evidently bastards, were sprightly children enough; but the offspring of her later years have been miserable abortions: though their parent hugs their dead and deformed carcases with affectionate fondness, and is never so happy as when she can persuade a good-natured stranger to take a peep at the dear delightful progeny.

The widow Fairbur was once, I am informed, a painter of red lions and golden bulls for the Bonifaces of Middlesex: flattered by success in this department of the fine arts, she betook herself to the sketching of miniatures, and afterwards combined the skill of the painter with the taste and science of the dramatic critic. She was long notorious as a bully, and frightened those who were afraid of her criticisms into the purchase of her pictures. A gentleman named Gifford, however, came forth to chastise her knavery: the widow appealed to the protection of the law, but finding that her character was too well known to the gentlemen of the bar, she fled to America, where, strange to say! she married a wife, who she soon afterwards deserted, forgetting not, however, to take all imaginable care of the lady's property. She returned to England under the protection of a deluded watchmaker, and since her arrival has obtained the necessities of life, by "spunging on dirty w——s for dirty bread" (Epistle to Peter Pindar.); by extorting dinners and dollars from the dramatic performers; by flattering the follies and participating in the vices of theatrical coxcombs, and by all the other combined arts of puffing and cajollery.

She is a determined toper: gin and purl are her favorite liquors; cribbage her favorite game, licentiousness her

favorite pursuit. Her person is filthy to an almost inconceivable degree, her habitation as uncleanly as her person, her mind as polluted as her habitation. Without honesty, shame, or decency, she has long been the outcast of mankind, and the object of disgust and contempt even to the mean and profligate wretches with whom she is condemned to enjoy her evening potations.

I am credibly informed Sir, that *she* has lately assumed the distinction of LL.D. and gives herself the airs and graces of a literary character. Into the nature of her pretensions I shall make a full and immediate enquiry, of which you shall be acquainted with the result; and for the present, in the hope that the preceding particulars will partly satisfy the public curiosity,

I remain,

Your very obedient servant,

London, January 29*th*, 1811. INQUISITOR.

MR. GILLET AND MR. STOCKDALE.

IN the fourth number of the Scourge we inserted an advertisement of Mr. John Stockdale, reflecting in very severe terms on the conduct of more than one individual connected with the premises destroyed by fire in Crown-court, and apparently insinuating certain unpleasant charges against Mr. Gillet in particular. That the remarks which accompanied this advertisement should have excited Mr. G. to commence an action against the supposed proprietors for a libel, will account in some degree not only for our subsequent return to the subject, but for the difficulties that opposed themselves to its investigation. It is with pleasure, however, that we now declare our firm conviction that the advertisement alluded to was not intended to apply to Mr. Gillet; that if it had been intended to apply to that gentleman, it would have been the vehicle of gross injustice; and that the actual loss of Mr. Gillet by the destruction of his premises, was nearly equal to treble the amount of his insurance.

To the Editor of the Scourge.

SIR,

IN your last number of the SCOURGE, No. 13, Jan. 1, page 34, while reviewing a new quarterly publication, you have ventured to assume, "from internal evidence," and to announce to your readers, that I am a principal contributor to that review; and upon the strength of such assumption you have very kindly given me some friendly advice.

It is not in my power to make my acknowledgments for such advice, because it happens that your assumption is ill-founded. Neither shall I make a single observation upon the critical acuteness you have evinced in assigning to a particular individual any contribution to a work, which, to this hour, he has never seen.

My business is, therefore, necessarily of a more serious kind. Your positive assertion has not only done me *an actual injury* in my professional pursuits; but it is also calculated to do me much more among professional men. For it was made in *direct contradiction* to a solemn declaration made by myself, *two days* before your number appeared; wherein, on relinquishing my course as a periodical writer, I stated to the public, and for the information of gentlemen in the law, that I am totally unconnected, in any shape whatever, directly or indirectly, and that I intended inflexibly to maintain my determination, to remain for ever unconnected with any political or periodical literary work of any description whatsoever.

Now, Sir, your assertion goes to the extent of falsifying flatly what I have as flatly disclaimed, and therefore of impeaching my veracity. When I gave up the editorship of "the Weekly Political and Literary Review," in consequence of my having been called to the bar last term, I not only assigned the reasons why I deemed it improper to connect myself, thenceforward, with any political or periodical publication; but I also declared that from that day, I had no interest, share, property, or connection, directly or indirectly, in any such works; and that it was my inflexible determination never more to connect myself with them. Nevertheless you have roundly appointed me a principal contributor to this New Quarterly Review, which you have been criticizing. I have a right, therefore, to request, that you will, in your next number, do me the justice, which is the least you can do, to do away the ill impression which your paragraph has excited, of retracting your assertion; and that you will let the contradiction appear in as conspicuous a part of your work, as that in which your misinformation appeared.

To put the matter out of doubt, I here again declare, that the new review, to which you allude, I have never seen in my life; that I have never directly or indirectly written a single article or line for that review or for any other; and that I am as ignorant as a child unborn, who are the proprietors, editor, or contributors to it.

If I had designed to have told a direct falsehood to the public when I renounced my review, there are circumstances which

have occurred,' that would have made it impossible for me to have carried on such hypocrisy. For, besides the ill state of my health, for many months, incapacitating me from such pursuits; I am labouring under an heavy domestic loss, which altogether disqualifies me from embarking in such undertakings.

I trust, therefore, Sir, that you will not hesitate to give me an assurance, that the present representation, will be duly attended to in your next. I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant, H. R. YORKE.

THEATRICAL REVIEW.

Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri;
Quo me cunque rapit tempestas deferor *hospes*.

Opera House and Pantheon.

That the Opera-house under its present system of management is merely an apology for a place of fashionable concourse, is acknowledged even by its most regular visitors, and cannot escape the attention of the most casual spectator. Without the ability to attend in person to the direction of the establishment, or the inclination to engage at a liberal salary subordinates of talent and experience: the management of the theatre has been long entrusted to a combination of meddling, superficial, and profligate individuals, who possess neither the requisite acquaintance with dramatic affairs, the property that might secure them from temptation, nor any motives to personal exertion. The only novelty that has appeared since the commencement of the season, had nearly been sacrificed to the emptiness of the treasury: the most delightful ballet that modern taste has produced, was robbed of its effect by the coarseness of the scenery, and the inaction of the machinist; and the progress of every stage exhibition, whether new or old, whether excellent or contemptible, is marked by a languor of movement, corresponding with the slow and uncertain application of the pecuniary stimuli.

Tremanzzoni already acquainted with the necessity of positive stipulations, and determined to enforce their fulfilment, refused to appear until the manager should comply with his just demands. His place was supplied on

the first night of the performance by Signor Righi, who appeared to as much advantage as could be reasonably expected. The critic of the Morning Post, however, resolving to testify how frequently he attends the theatre, and with how much impartiality his praises are bestowed, expressed the next morning his satisfaction at the performance of Tremazzani, a satisfaction only diminished by observing that he appeared to labour under some remains of his late indisposition. His perverseness has in all probability enabled him toaccomplish his intentions, and he has now returned to that station which he has occupied in former seasons, to the gratification of the public, and to his own credit and emolument.

But besides that the expected reversion of the management to Mr. Waters, may remove every ground of immediate complaint, and render the Opera-house in the course of a few months in every respect worthy of the fashionable patronage, its present state affords no excuse for those who endeavour to impose on the credulity of the public by specious but unfounded pretexts, or are themselves the easy and deserved dupes to the artifices of necessitous adventurers. If the subscribers to the Pantheon and Mr. Greville himself be the victims of their own rashness, let them at once abandon the design instead of injuring the other theatre without any possibility of benefiting themselves; and let them not by wilful misstatements of the progress of the building incur the disgrace of falsehood, in addition to the disappointments attached to inconsiderate ambition. They cannot be ignorant that Mr. Greville obtained the supposed licence from the chamberlain's office on condition of returning it; that he forgot the condition; that admitting its validity it does not authorize the entertainments they have announced that it expires in July; that there is no prospect of its renewal, and that the building cannot be completed. They have no funds; nor if they had, could they proceed in their speculation without an act of parliament. Half of the space intended for the stage is tenanted by a lawyer: from this gentleman they purchased it for fifteen hundred pounds, of which they agreed

to pay down one third, and the two remaining thirds at convenient intervals. When the time of paying the second instalment arrived they *were short of cash*; and in a day or two afterwards it was discovered that Mr. Mayo had misinterpreted the conditions of his lease and sold the property of others. An injunction has been issued by the real proprietor of the ground, and this "*national structure*" must be opened, if it be opened at all, with half a stage. With what deliberation and how profound a knowledge of the subject they have conducted their operations maybe conjectured from the simple circumstance, that after the audience part of the theatre had been completed, they were obliged to request a celebrated architect to examine into its construction, and inform themwhether it was likely to support the weight of a crowded audience!

It will be seen by the subjoined statement, which ought to be received with the caution that is due to *exparte* representations, that the subscribers lay great stress on the alledged acknowledgments of the Lord Chamberlain of the validity of the licence after it had been transferred to their disposal. But whatever may be thought of the expedience of the chamberlain's conduct,his right to demand the re-delivery of an informal document, or of a licence improperly obtained, cannot be disputed. He might be willing to wave this right, so long as no disposition was evinced on the part of its possessors to affix to it a meaning which it does not express,and beneath its sanction to encroach on the rights and injure the property of others. Observing as he must have done the willingness of the subscribers to stretch it as far as might suit their own convenience, he cannot be blamed if he at once reclaimed the document itself as the most effectual mode of preventing its abuse, and of evading the trouble and degradation of an epistolarycontest.

In answer to a letter from the proprietors of the theatre, requesting a meeting with the vice chamberlain, the following letter was, we understand, received:—

"Hill-street, Jan. 11, 1811.

"Lord John Thynne presents his compliments to the proprietors of boxes at the Pantheon Theatre, who have honoured him with a letter, requesting to have some conversation with him on the subject of Mr. Greville's licence; but having been under the necessity of declaring it null and void, and it being impossible for him to know of any person concerned in it except Mr. Greville, to whom alone it is granted, no conversation could lead to any beneficial result. Nothing can be done until Mr. G. returns the licence to the Lord Chamberlain's office.

"The proprietors of property boxes at the Pantheon Theatre."

In answer to which, the proprietors sent his lordship the following reply:—

"Pantheon Theatre, Jan. 11, 1812.

"My Lord,—It was with great surprise that the proprietors of boxes at the Pantheon Theatre have learned from the answer your lordship did them the honour to give to their note of the 9th instant, that the licence granted by your lordship to Mr. Greville, you now consider null and void. Such a declaration coming after the correspondence which passed on the subject of the licence between your lordship and the proprietor of it, in which the powers and authority of the licence were repeatedly acknowledged and confirmed by your lordship, does appear to them to have been made without your having brought to your recollection that correspondence, and given sufficient consideration to the situation in which the proprietors have been placed in consequence of it. The proprietors therefore beg leave to make the following statement:

"That at a meeting of noblemen and gentlemen called for that purpose, Mr. Greville exhibited a licence obtained from the Lord Chamberlain's office, and to the following effect:

"I do hereby give leave and licence unto H. F. Greville, Esq. to have burlettas, music, and dancing; also dramatic entertainments performed by children, under the age of seventeen years, from the 30th day of July next to the 30th day of July, 1812, at the Pantheon in Oxford-street, within the liberties of Westminster.—Given under my hand and seal, this 29th day of June, in the 51st year of his Majesty's reign.

JOHN THYNNE, Vice-Chamberlain.

"'Entered, William Martin.'"

Afterwards, from the explanation called for by Mr. Greville as to its powers, your lordship, in the following letters, gave to that licence a confirmation:

(EXTRACT.)

"Hill-street, July 15, 1811.

"Sir,—This result of the investigation has reinstated Mr. Mash in his office, and taken off the suspension of your licence, which I request you will consider now as again to be in full force. (Signed) J. THYNNE.

"H. F. Greville, Esq

(COPY.)

"Lord Chamberlain's Office, August 23, 1811.

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this morning. As I cannot imagine that the terms of the licence granted to you are in any degree equivocal, I must beg to decline any explanation upon the subject, by referring you to the instrument itself for every information you can possibly want.—I am, &c.

(Signed) "T. B. MASH.

"H. F. Greville, Esq."

The noblemen and gentlemen, who were present at such meeting, with several others, on the faith of that licence, confirmed and strengthened as it was by the above explanatory correspondence, were satisfied with it as an authority under which they might safely advance their money. Mr. Greville is the sole proprietor of the licence; but upon the faith of that licence alone they have advanced considerable sums. The licence, therefore, now remains as the only security for the advances they have made, and which have been all expended under it.

From these circumstances they must submit it to the equity of your lordship, whether they can, at this distance of time, and after so much sacrifice and expence have been incurred, be called upon to surrender the only security they hold for the large advances they have made.

(Signed by the PROPRIETORS.)

Right Hon. Lord John Thynne, &c.

"Lord John Thynne presents his compliments to the proprietors of boxes at the Pantheon, in answer to their letter of the 11th instant; begs to inform them that his letter of the 15th of July, was written, during the time of Mr. Mash's suspension, and consequently, when he was ignorant of the circumstances under which the licence had been obtained. He has seen Mr. Mash, who informs him that his letter of 23d August, was written in answer to one from Mr. Greville, respecting the performance by children.

"Lord John Thynne can only repeat, that nothing can be done till the licence is returned to the Lord Chamberlain's office.---Hill-street, Jan. 13, 1812."

In answer to this from his lordship, the proprietors gave the following reply:

"Pantheon Theatre, 17th January 1812.

"My Lord.---In answer to the letter we have had the honour of receiving from your lordship, we have to regret extremely, that we are under the necessity of again trespassing on your lordship's time; but the injury threatened to ourselves, and the ruin to so many others who have embarked such considerable sums on the faith of your lordship's authority, force it upon us as an imperious duty.

"We must ever regret, that from any circumstances, your lordship should have been deprived of the knowledge of the transactions of your office, and that even when one clerk was removed from that office, information should have been withheld from you by all others. But we must also deeply lament, that from the month of July, when Mr. Mash was restored, until the month of December, a period during which (as might naturally be expected) the whole capital now risked was embarked, there should have been no communication whatever made upon a subject threatening so much ruin to all interested, as the present declaration, that the authority which had existed for so long a period is null and void. Distressing as these circumstances must be felt by all of us; we cannot but exonerate ourselves from every species of blame. Unconnected with your lordship's office, and ignorant of its regulations, we could only look to the officers who filled its situations, as reponsible for the observance of its rules; and we could in no instance have conceived that we could be made sufferers for the non-observance in others of the serious duties imposed upon them. Contending, as we always must, that upon those officers alone is imposed the charge of observing that every regulation is complied with necessary to the valid issue of every instrument from the office, with which they are charged; or that if any should be issued, wanting in such compliance, that it should he immediately recalled, instead of being allowed to become a means of serious injury to all those who may give credit to its apparent validity. Whether the attention of Mr. Mash was directed by Mr. Greville to one of the powers of the licence, or to all, appears to us of no importance whatever. Mr. Mash's letter of 23d August, distinctly recognises the validity of the instrument to which he alludes, for your lordship will see the impossibility of that instrument's being valid in one sentence, and invalid in another.

"Having stated these circumstances, we must again call upon your lordship's equity and justice to reconsider the penalty now threatened upon us for having been guilty of no impropriety whatever: but on the contrary, for having only relied with implicit faith upon an instrument bearing your lordship's authority; and we must hope, that the justice, with which we feel satisfied we are pleading, may induce your lordship to consider the extent of injury you may inflict, and so relieve us from the necessity of surrendering the only security we are possessed of, for the large sums of money ourselves, and others have embarked upon the Pantheon Theatre. We are still forced

to look to your lordship's letter of the 15th of July, as a distinct avowal of the validity of the licence to which it refers; for your lordship will hardly call upon us to take into consideration the omission of your lordship's deputies, or to consent that such omission should invalidate your own declaration, that from the date of that letter, the licence was to be considered as being in full force; but if more was necessary, we should beg leave to refer your lordship to your letter to Mr. Greville of the 23d of August, (one month after the reinstatement of Mr. Mash in his office, and two months after the period when the licence was granted,) in which your lordship states to Mr. Greville as follows:

"Bay Cliffe, August 23, 1811.

"Sir—The licence you have, is exactly similar to that which was granted you by Lord Dartmouth, in the year 1808, and consequently must give precisely the same powers.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) "J. THYNNE."

"H. F. Greville, Esq."

"We have always looked upon these letters from yourlordship, as a distinct confirmation of the valid existence of the licence. We have implicitly relied upon them as authorities upon which we might safely embark our money; it must now remain for your lordship to decide, whether we have properly placed our confidence. We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed by the PROPRIETORS.)

"Right Hon. Lord John Thynne, &c."

There is something in the management of theatrical concerns well calculated to excite the petty ambition of all who have neither talents for any kind of business, nor credit sufficient to insure their reception into the confidence of more honorable men than the traders in patents. That the subscribers to the Pantheon are in general men of character, fortune, and abilities is known to every one; but that they have been cajoled or deceived by individuals whom no considerations of prudence can withhold from dramatic speculations, nor any sense of shame or gratitude divert from the most flagrant impositions on the public credulity is equally notorious. Were not the vain ambition of becoming the arbiters of national taste, and the directors of the national amusements, the predominant excitement to interference in theatrical concerns, we should not have occasion to witness so many deplorable examples of voluntary involvement in the multiplied difficulties that they so frequently induce.

A new opera was announced for this evening under the title of "the Virgin of the Sun," but the indisposition of Miss Smith has compelled its postponement till Friday. Its title implies that it is one of those s lendid productions in which the dramatist yelds precedence to the scene-painter and the mechanist; and truth, nature, and morality are sacrificed to magnificence of scenery, and richness of decoration. We have often asserted, and must again repeat, that the introduction of *spectacle* on the stage of Covent-garden is more frequent and obtrusive than even expedience can justify. We are convinced that an adherence in a more considerable degree to the legitimate drama would remunerate the managers as liberally as their present system; and if it would not, the admission of the fact is at once an evidence of the evils of monopoly: it proves that instead of two large theatres many smaller ones ought to be erected; of which the exhibitions should be particularly specified. Even under the present patent we are assured by a law officer of eminence, that Mr. Astley or any other gentleman has the full power of obtaining an injunction against the introduction of living animals on the stages of Covent-garden or Drury; and if this be too invidious a task for a private individual, is it not within the jurisdiction, and would it not be creditable to the patriotism of the lord chamberlain?

Of the dirty and obscene animal that is now exhibited on the stage of the "first theatre of the world," it need only be said, that by the majority of the audience its absence would gladly be dispensed with. Its odour does not remind the spectators of the fragrance of Arabian gales, and on this account, and from the disgust excited by its filthy appearance and unusual stupidity, their sentiments have been expressed in a manner the most general and unequivocal. To those who take delight in such a spectacle, we recommend a visit to the Surrey-theatre, of which the chief bestial performer is far more intelligent, cleanly, and entertaining than that of the Covent-garden boards.